

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Gay Man Alleges Sex Abuse in Hospital

by Dennis Conkin

An openly gay man who was immobilized with severe fractures after he fell four stories from his hotel window ledge last year has filed a damages claim against Laguna Honda Hospital, charging he was sexually abused by an employee at the site.

According to attorney Robert Douglas, who represents claimant Dennis Todd Roberts, the harassment began when Roberts was transferred from San Francisco General Hospital to Laguna Honda Hospital for skilled nursing care of his injuries.

Deputy City Attorney Paula Jesson told the *Bay Area Reporter* the claim against the city will be investigated, and either paid or rejected. Under law, the city has six months to reject or settle the claim. If the claim is rejected, Roberts's attorney will file a lawsuit against the city in San Francisco Superior Court.

"It was kind of rough. It's still kind of rough. I wish it hadn't happened," Roberts told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Roberts fractured his pelvis, both legs, and his arms in a four-story fall from the Market Chase Hotel in the Ten-

Continued on page 26

The Thrill of it All



Newly anointed Empress XXXI Cockatielia (right foreground) can't hide her delight at becoming the latest in a long line of San Francisco royalty. She and Emperor XXIV Steve Vallone (left) became the 1996 joint rulers of the Imperial Court at a dazzling 5-1/2 hour ceremony at the Gift Center March 2. Court devotees from all over the U.S. paid homage to outgoing Empress Donna Sachet and Emperor Brian Benamati as well as the new monarchs.

For full story, see Mr. Marcus, page 50

Photo: Rick Geimster

Protease Approved, Funding Pushed

by Bob Roehr

The unrelenting march of new protease inhibitors onto pharmacy shelves picked up blinding speed at the last stages of approval. The drugs are expected to be commercially available as early as mid-March.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel meeting Thursday, February 29 reviewed nintavir, the protease developed by Abbott Laboratories. The marathon session lasted well into the evening and brought a somewhat unusual recommendation: full approval for use in patients in late stages of HIV infection, but conditional approval for other uses. Those definitions were intentionally left fuzzy.

The agreement hammered out with Abbott means the company will conduct further trials to determine dosage and regime efficacy in patients in earlier stages of infection. The practical effect for people living with HIV is to make the product quickly available for use as their physicians sees fit.

FDA Commissioner David Kessler signed the panel's recommendations the next day. The formal application process took only 72 days, nearly three weeks quicker than the old record set last December with ap-

Continued on page 21

Internal Condoms Available Now:

SF Gay Men Get Some Reality

by Mike Salinas

This week San Francisco became the first city in the world to begin wide-scale free distribution of internal condoms to gay men. The policy of providing men with the so-called "female condoms" at city health clinics was established in a memo distributed by San Francisco AIDS Office Director Mitch Katz, M.D., on Monday, March 4.

"We have ordered a supply of these condoms to be distributed for use by men," Katz wrote in the memo, sent to all district health centers, the Tom Waddell Clinic, the Southeast Health Center, and the Potrero Hill Health Center. "The supply is limited by

funding availability, but it is our intention to make these available as best we can."

According to Marcy Fraser, RN, in the AIDS Office, the city ordered 500 of the condoms; of which 300 have been delivered so far. The three other cities that have initiated Reality giveaway programs, which have so far only focused on women, have distributed thousands of the devices. Philadelphia alone went through 80,000 in five months.

The same day Katz sent his memo, Supervisor Tom Ammiano introduced a resolution before the Board of Supervisors "urg[ing] that director of Public Health take the needed action to make this alternative condom design widely available to both

men and women for HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted disease prevention, while protecting funding which has made it available to women, and to take all available step to encourage the Food and Drug Administration to formally authorize [anal] use."

Meanwhile, in Washington...

The FDA has never given approval for the manufacturer to label and promote the Reality brand condom for use in anal sex, so most gay men aren't aware they are an option. However, as the *Bay Area Reporter* revealed last week, gay men participated in Phase I testing of the device at the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in Chicago six

Continued on page 15

Hawaii Legislators Violate Rules in Homophobic Rush

by Rene M. Astudillo

Hawaii's legislators, fearful that same-sex marriage will eventually become legal in the state, are doing all they can to try to preempt any ruling by the state courts - even to the point

of circumventing the legislative process.

In a last-minute maneuver, criticized even by legislators who support the ban on same-sex marriage, the House Judiciary Committee revived a bill Friday, March 1 that would ask Hawaiian voters to decide on a constitutional amendment that specifies

state-sanctioned marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

Under the rules of the legislature, at least 48 hours notice should be given before a committee decides on a bill, to allow for public testimony. The committee apparently faced a midnight deadline Friday to position non-budget bills for final vote before the full House this week.

This latest legislative maneuver was prompted by a domestic partnership bill that is up for a vote in the state Senate this week. The Senate bill would grant gay and lesbian couples many of the legal and other benefits extended to married heterosexual couples. State senators are hoping that granting these

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COMMUNITY NEWS

'We've Lost Another Warrior' Christian Haren Dies

by Dennis Conkin

Nationally renowned AIDS educator Christian Haren died peacefully at his Castro District home on February 27. He was 61.

Diagnosed with AIDS in 1985, Haren was a leader in AIDS prevention efforts among high school and college youth. A prime mover behind "The Wedge," a local program that brought people with HIV into schools to talk about the reality of HIV disease, Haren later founded a nationally-based technical assistance training program for HIV-positive AIDS educators. He lectured frequently about the disease and the importance of safe sex practices to prevent the transmission of HIV until his health declined.

Haren was the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Stonewall Award, and was called a national hero by *Newsweek* magazine for his efforts. He was especially proud of the official recognition of his work by U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

"We've lost another warrior to this AIDS battle," said San Francisco Health Department director Sandra Hernandez, MD. "It's a huge loss to the community. The Department of Public Health gives him the kind of respect and acknowledgment that any other war hero would receive."

Born in San Bernardino, California, Haren was briefly a contract actor to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio and appeared in a



Christian Haren

number of films, including *Harm's Way* with John Wayne. He also appeared in the Broadway production of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*.

Haren also worked as a model, and is best known for appearing in print ads for Marlboro Cigarettes.

During the late 1960s Haren was a real estate salesman and a construction contractor in Sonoma County and Los Angeles. A classic Victorian home he remodeled in period style in Key West, Florida later received an award.

In the 70s, Haren's management of the CC Construction Co.

bar in Palm Springs turned the venue into the most popular gay spot in the resort area. After relocating to the Bay Area, Haren later briefly ran a Russian River area chocolate store.

Haren's lover Gregory Thomas died in December. Haren is survived by his sister, Connie Robey of Mountain Home, Idaho, his close friends Lynda Maderas and Bob Crane, and his former housemate David Kirkpatrick.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adjourned its Tuesday, March 5 meeting in Haren's honor. ▼

High Court Backs Gays Against Police Sting

by Mary Ann Swissler

The California State Supreme Court unanimously decided Monday, March 4 in favor of two gay men who sued the Mountain View police department in 1993 for arresting them solely on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Public lewdness charges against Dennis Baluyut and Job Lopez were ultimately dropped, two men out of a total of ten who were detained outside the Video Cassette Outlet adult bookstore in Mountain View, on suspicion of soliciting sex from a male undercover officer in 1992 and 1993. Openly gay attorney Bruce Nickerson has argued all along that the police targeted gay men, since no heterosexuals were arrested, and citizen complaints from the bookstore neighbors had not specified anything about gay men.

This week's high court decision will ease the burden of proof for future plaintiffs claiming police discrimination, because it disagreed with a Fourth District Court of Appeals decision in *People v. Smith* that demands a higher burden of proof. Santa Clara County Municipal Court Judge Douglas Southard had cited that standard, which demands proof that police deliberately intended to punish the men they arrested for being gay. Instead, Southard wrote in his opinion, Mountain View police had acted out of subconscious anti-gay bias.

But in January 1995, the Sixth District Court of Appeals ordered all charges to be dropped against the men, stating, "A defendant should not be required to psycho-

analyze the enforcement authorities to receive the constitutional protections to which he or she is entitled."

Nevertheless, the state's Attorney General asked the State Supreme Court to rule on the discrimination claim.

Nickerson said the decision spells the end of gay-specific police sting operations. "They got

rid of the Smith requirement of intent to punish, and you just need to show statistics," he told the B.A.R.

The court remained silent on whether the sting operation used by the Mountain View police department had illegally discriminated against gays, because the charges have been dismissed. "It's not the whole ball of wax," Nickerson conceded. ▼

SF OCC Head: I Am Not a Homophobe

by Dennis Conkin

A former Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney who used to prosecute sex solicitation defendants — such as the gay men entrapped at a Mountain View adult bookstore in the case partially addressed by the California Supreme Court this week [see story above] — doesn't work for that D.A. anymore.

Lance Beyer is now the civilian director of the San Francisco Police Department's Office of Citizen Complaints, and he finds accusations that he's homophobic because he prosecuted the cases assigned to him disturbing and offensive.

So does gay attorney Bruce Nickerson, who said Beyer was "just doing his job" in prosecuting gay men nabbed for sexual solicitation or lewd and lascivious conduct.

"Well, he must not have done too great a job because the police sure lost this case," San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano quipped.

Ammiano, who is active in police reform matters, told the B.A.R. the reports left him concerned.

But Nickerson said that Beyer was an excellent attorney, who prosecuted cases because he believed he had the elements of convictable offenses.

"In my opinion, he's not a homophobe," Nickerson said. "Absolutely not. He's a very conscientious man."

Beyer was an Assistant District Attorney with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office for 15 years until he took the OCC post last year. ▼

City Hall Wedding Ceremonies Scheduled

Now All That's Needed Are Participants!

by Mary Ann Swissler

When the Wedding March plays at the first-ever San Francisco City Hall civil ceremony for domestic partners Monday, March 25, it might only signal a symbolic victory. Even so, it will be one watched by the whole world.

Domestic partners are now being sought to take part in the group ceremony, which will be performed by Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisor Carole Migden inside the War Memorial Building. The special ceremony will kick off the city's new program that offers same-sex couples and other domestic partners the same type of civil ceremony historically made available to heterosexual couples at City Hall.

Like the bill authorizing civil service ceremonies for domestic partners registered in San Francisco, news reports of the group weddings have prompted calls from around the world, according to Migden aide Michael Colbruno. The bill was authored by

Supervisor Carole Migden and unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors.

Migden said she welcomed the attention, saying that it was a perfect opportunity for the city to show off its liberal stripes.

"At a time when lesbians and gays are under attack from Pat Buchanan and the far right, it is important that San Francisco shows the world that we are a compassionate and humane place to live for everyone," she said. "This ceremony is an opportunity for people across the country to see that alternative families live in stable and loving relationships, while legitimizing public support and adding a celebratory note to the occasion."

March 20 is the deadline for registered domestic partners to sign up at the County Clerk's office. There is a \$35 fee to register as a domestic partner, and \$30 to have a civil ceremony.

The group ceremony will be held at 401 Van Ness Avenue, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Herbst Theater. ▼



Supre Carole Migden

Photo: George T. Kruse

CAPA Invites You To Come Help Shape the

by Dennis Conkin

A future vision for the Castro will be the subject of four focus groups this month and next, sponsored by Castro Area Planning and Action. The first, open to all interested parties, is next Wednesday.

According to organizers, the focus groups are to assist urban planners and architects respond to neighborhood and lesbian and gay community concerns.

The focus groups of residents, businesspeople, and lesbian and gay community members will seek input from participants "about how they want the Castro district to develop in the next few years." CAPA spokesman Phil Siegel told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Siegel said the community group has been conducting outreach to other community groups for input and comparisons about neighborhood issues.

"Chain stores are a very big issue in many neighborhoods," Siegel said. "Rent control and zoning issues are also big problems for many neighborhoods." Housing, traffic, and public safety are other hot topics in neighborhood associations, he said.

Siegel said that there is a diversity of opinions about what residents and community members want — and don't want — in the Castro, and that all opinions are welcome at the focus groups.

"We decided the best way to proceed is to get everyone's opinion and put all that into a master document," he said.

Siegel said the focus groups will establish the groundwork for a two-day May planning workshop to address neighborhood issues in the Eureka Valley/Castro/Duboce Triangle area.

The workshop will involve architects, city planners' representatives from a variety of city departments, and landscape design-

ers and experts in various fields.

"The outcome of the May workshop will be a series of ideas put forth in a graphic format," Siegel said. "The results of the workshop will be displayed in a variety of public venues for discussion and community comment — and everyone with concerns about the Castro is invited to participate."

For more information about the workshop or the focus groups, the next general meeting of CAPA will be held at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

at 100 Collingwood Street. The following dates have been set for the focus groups: Gay and Lesbian Community focus group Thursday, March 14 from 7:30-9 p.m. Castro Residents focus group Saturday, March 23 from 1-2:30 p.m. Merchants and Businesspeople's focus group and a General Public Focus group on Saturday, April 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. ▼

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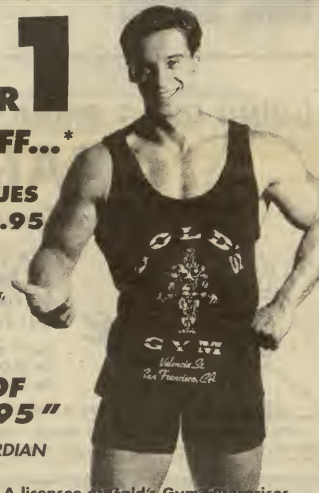
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Rick Gerharter

Willie's Pitch

With fans and officials looking on, Mayor Willie Brown winds up to throw out the first ball at the opening day ceremonies of the Gay Softball League March 3. Dodging rain showers, players honored deceased players, greeted politicians, and staged exhibition games, including one against the SF Sheriff's Dept.

DiGenova Desists PWA Eviction Attempt

by Dennis Conkin

A San Francisco gay man who suffers from symptomatic HIV infection no longer faces eviction from his residence of 20 years, after the *Bay Area Reporter* published a story about his landlord's attempts to remove him, but the tenant's lawyer says she still plans to sue the landlord in the case.

The three-day eviction action had been taken by landlord Anthony DiGenova in February on the grounds that tenant John Hughes was an alcoholic whose drinking created a public health hazard to other building residents. The action was dropped before a scheduled deposition of DiGenova could be conducted as part of a lawsuit Hughes filed to prevent the eviction.

"This proves the substance of our case, and we intend to take af-

firmative action," said attorney Amanda Ebey, who represents Hughes.

According to a letter written by tenant Romeo L'Heureux to DiGenova, which was used to justify the nuisance eviction, "Hardly a day would go by but that [Hughes] is intoxicated."

But Ebey produced a letter from Hughes's physician, stating that he was not abusing alcohol and did not need alcohol abuse treatment.

L'Heureux, a friend of DiGenova's, told the *Bay Area Reporter* he wrote the letter "out of concern" for Hughes, and was extremely upset to discover it had become a public document and was reported as such.

L'Heureux also said he did not realize that Hughes was ill.

Ebey told the *B.A.R.* her

client's health "remains stable," but said the incident has also taken a financial toll.

"He needs to be compensated for his costs in this matter," she said. "He's out of a lot of money—but John Hughes is a fighter."

She said Hughes posed absolutely no threat to the other tenants at the Pine Street apartments where he lives.

"Mr. Hughes is no more a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of tenants in that building than I am on a bad hair day," she told the *B.A.R.*

Ebey said she believed DiGenova attempted to evict Hughes as part of a plan for "vacancy decontrol" and subsequent higher rents. DiGenova is the founder of Girth and Mirth, a social and support group for extremely overweight men and their admirers. ▼

Marin Lesbian Sentenced to 11 Years for Manslaughter

'Essentially a Life Sentence to Someone this Age'

by Mary Ann Swissler

A Marin County judge sentenced a 69-year-old lesbian to the maximum sentence allowed by law on Thursday, February 29. Phyllis Robbins had pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter on December 23 in connection with the slaying last summer of a Mills Valley woman, Bobby Wilson.

Robbins, a retired art teacher with no prior arrests, will be transferred this week to California Women's Facility at Chowchilla to begin serving an 11 year sentence, with no chance of parole, her defense attorney David Wool told the *B.A.R.*

He pleaded for mercy with the sentencing judge Lynn O'Malley, saying that the minimum of three years, or even a midterm sentence of six years, would be more appropriate given Robbins' total lack of a criminal history and her age. "We made the point that an 11 year sentence was essentially a life sentence to someone this age," he said.

In eight years she might be eligible to go to a halfway house, he said.

"It was actually a sad event. I was really shocked that she got the maximum term, considering her lack of intent and her lack of a criminal record," Wool told the *B.A.R.* following the sentencing. In her leniency plea to the court, Robbins presented a large collection of character letters, including one from a couple who said they would still entrust her with their own children.

But Judge O'Malley expressed concern that Robbins would be a danger to the community. O'Malley said to Robbins before pronouncing the sentence, "You must have a lot of anger and rage inside you because of what you did." Wool told the *B.A.R.* that the sentencing reflected the judge's feeling that since the killing was so brutal, she had no choice but to give maximum sentence. According to the coroner, 15 blows were delivered to the deceased.

'Out of Her Mind'

On the morning of June 5, 1995, Wilson invited Robbins to her home to discuss another woman, Maurine Zwemke, who was about to leave Robbins for Wilson. Robbins told the court that she ended up having to use mace to defend herself against Wilson, who she said tried to assault her with a metal-type weapon.

At that point, according to Wool, the tragic slaying occurred.

Wool said that maximum sentence is reserved for someone who has repeated instances, and had planned out the murder. Wilson's needless death was a tragedy, but one that was unplanned and happened in the heat of passion. He commented, "The judge kept saying what a cruel deed that Phyllis Robbins committed. How can it be cruel when you don't even know what you're doing?"

"She was out of her mind" at the time, Wool said, and when she "came to," she called 911 for help.

He has no plans to appeal, he said. ▼

Public Meeting Next Thursday:

Queer Community Center Board Expands

by Mary Ann Swissler

As the very first scheduled public forum for the proposed San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center approaches, community operatives have been busy setting the stage for buzzwords like diversity and inclusion to become realities.

The public forum for The Community Center Project is scheduled for next Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Community College building, located at 33 Gough Street near Market.

Four new board members will be announced, a new business plan unveiled, and information given about Mayor Brown's official endorsement of the project.

The new board members are Quang H. Dang, Pat Martel, Juanita Owens, and Jeff Sead. Dang is a law student and community activist currently serving on the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Martel has 20 years of experience in city government and non-profits including chair of the Hispanic Caucus of the United Way in Los Angeles. She now works as the assistant city manager of Daly City. Owens is a counselor for the San Francisco Community College District, is in-



Board President Scott Shafer.

volved with many issues affecting the Latino and African-American communities, and is a past member of the Police Commission, the Permit Appeals Board, and the Commission on the Status of Women. Sead co-chairs the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) and is a longtime community volunteer, including organizing GAPA's Chinese New Year Parade float. He also works at Clinical Partners as a patient care coordinator.

While the new board members reflect a continuing effort to fully include people of color from the very start of the community center, Board President Scott Shafer told the B.A.R. that bisexual and

transgender members are still being sought.

Supervisor Susan Leal, who met last week with the center's board about ensuring that the make-up of the board is as diverse as possible, told the B.A.R., "I think people came away from that meeting hopeful because there has been a definite response by the board to further diversify." Just part of that process includes assurances that all new appointments would be persons of color. "The feeling was hopeful, but I think also the feeling was that we have to be vigilant," said Leal. She also asked for people with disabilities on the board.

There are 17 total board seats, with six of those filled by men and women of color. According to the center's by-laws, the board can contain up to 25 members.

Shafer told the B.A.R. that the meeting with Leal was part of ongoing outreach that also included Supervisors Carole Migden and Tom Ammiano.

"From the very beginning we have had people of color on our board," he said. "We understand that the only way this center is going to succeed is for everyone to be involved and for everybody to feel a part of it."

"Not just in a symbolic way," he said, "but as a fundamental part of the project," on the board of directors and as part of outreach. ▼

MEN

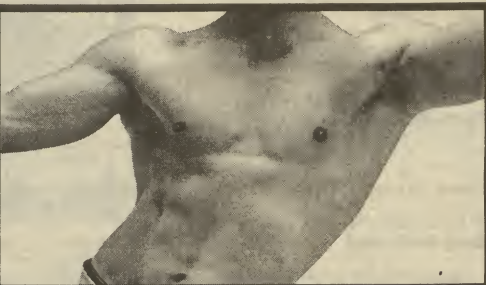
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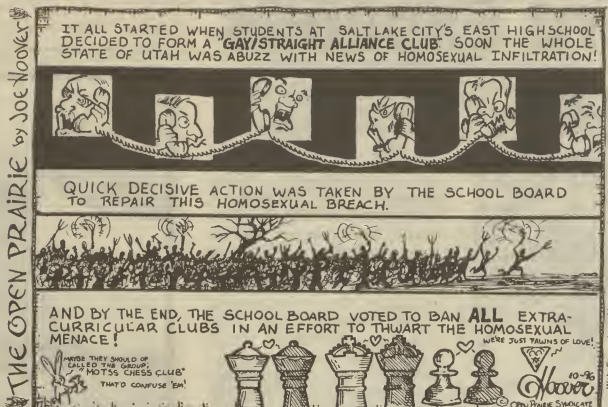
OPEN FORUM

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JOE HOOVER



EDITORIAL

Stellar Addled

Elizabeth Birch, the executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, recently used the words "pretty stellar" to describe President Clinton's record on gay issues. Hmmm.

Birch made the statement when comparing Clinton to the current crop of Republican candidates, a context in which there are positive things to be said about him, to be sure, but that doesn't justify such exaggeration. At no time in Clinton's presidency has he ever deserved that kind of approval.

This is a president whose Justice Department will not fight Amendment 2, but will fight every victory won by gay servicemembers. A president who has broken every promise he has made to us, and whose record on the literally life-and-death issue of AIDS is abysmal.

Unless Birch meant Clinton's policies are a perceptual phenomenon — like Stephen Hawking's observation that the stars we see tonight are just illusions, remnants of heat and light generated some years ago — her statement makes our community look like we're addled idiots who can't tell fact from fiction.

How can we ever expect to get Clinton to make good on his pledges — to initiate a Manhattan Project on AIDS, or to accept the recommendations of his own AIDS policy council (or those of his two Republican predecessors), or to fully fund the Ryan White Act — if our leaders insist on beatifying him despite all his broken promises?

Some readers may think we're being too harsh on Bill, but a more honest appraisal of his job performance over the last three years isn't going to spoil his sleep for the next few months. He has the Democratic nomination sewn up and is riding in style to the national convention in Chicago. From there the road back to the White House looks pretty clear (except for those Whitewater rapids looming on his horizon), leaving his future a lot brighter than that of any of the PWAs we know.

And as long as two American youths under the age of 20 are contracting HIV every hour, as the White House itself acknowledges, the Clinton track record is not stellar. It's a black hole.

In case the above criticism of Clinton gives undue comfort to the gay Buchanan contingent out there — surely a one-person show if there ever was one — or any other gay Republicans, we'd like to point

out an ugly (but telling) occurrence on the GOP trail lately.

The oddest political sight we've seen in years, by far, was that of shackled and hapless Alan Keyes being dragged away from a debate in Atlanta this week. Keyes is an African-American running for the Republican presidential nomination on a "traditional values" campaign, but failing to attract many votes. His message would appeal to more GOPs, it has been suggested, if he were white; of course, the same is also said about Democrats and Jesse Jackson.

Still, when Jackson was a Democratic presidential candidate he was never handcuffed and removed from a debating site. Keyes, on the other hand, was prevented by whatever means were necessary from entering the debate at an Atlanta television studio, ostensibly because he was not a leading contender for the nomination. Eventually cops brought out the handcuffs, slapped them on the candidate, and stuffed him into a squad car. (He was soon released — in a parking lot, no less, after being aimlessly driven around a series of locations that were apparently chosen simply because they were not an Atlanta television studio — and no less a person than the mayor of the city was dispatched to fetch him.)

So far the television station has taken the rap for the indignity, but it doesn't seem so coincidental that around the same time the GOP chairperson and other party bigwigs started saying out loud that lesser candidates should just get the hell out of Bob Dole's way. Whose decision was it, ultimately, that Keyes would not get a fair shot at Georgia delegates on "Junior Tuesday" primary day? The world may never know.

But this we do know, thanks to the Keyes escapade: being able to spout the rhetoric is still not enough — as it has never been enough — to get equality among Republicans. Whether the person in question is a black Republican or a gay Republican or a pro-choice Republican, the party's "big tent" is still too small for inclusion, and shrinking every day. So the gay people we see sucking up to Dole and Buchanan (heavens, what an awful image that conjures up!) are in for the same kind of nasty shock Keyes got.

But if the day does come when they, too, are dragged away, we can guarantee they're not going to see the mayor. The only things they'll have in common with Keyes will be the cuffs, that blank look of betrayal, and the awful realization that all that ass-kissing was in vain. ▼

GUEST OPINION

Deseg Ad-Seg Hate Crimes

by Gary Parker, #1621742,
San Bruno Jail

As I lay reading, passing the time like most men here do, I hear a click and then a clang — the sound letting me know the gate to the administrative segregation is being opened. The sound comes at an unusual time, so I crane forward to see who enters. Immediately I recognize Cuba, a flamboyant crossdresser from San Francisco, followed by three guards. I can see that she's cuffed as she's ushered to an open cell. As the guards follow, the sound of keys upon keys jingle to a halt, leaving the sector quiet except for the crackle of the radios mounted upon the deputies' shoulders.

Only after the cell door has been closed do the guards remove the handcuffs. Turning away, they leave it all behind, looking out of the bars at all of the inmates in Ad-Seg. I hear a distant metallic slam from down the long corridor letting me know the guards are gone.

In jail you learn to discern sounds, and what they mean, very well.

As soon as the guards leave the heckling begins. Cuba has no teeth, which only adds to her age — making her appear 20 years older than her 40 years, but I can't be sure. I snicker to myself, because I couldn't stand the sight or sound of her while being housed together on 3-south weeks ago: the only segregated housing for gays at San Bruno County Jail #3. Whereas I was for the most part quiet, she was somewhat loud — myself slightly tortured toward men; herself so very upfront. I didn't speak Spanish, she didn't speak English. To make a long story short we weren't the best of friends.

Cuba and I do have one thing in common, though. We both have the AIDS virus. I'm not sure how long Cuba's had it, but I've been positive for 13 years now.

But I sat snickering as the catcalls and insults began, knowing that Cuba's incarceration just became more difficult. Soon I was to know just how difficult her time was.

As day one for her went by I was still somewhat smug as the others spoke among themselves about Cuba, but not talking to her much except maybe to insult her. I feel odd, though, seeing that I'm gay but partially accepted since I'm more masculine acting. I've done a lot of time (for buying, peddling, or possessing drugs; nothing else) and have learned a lot of do's and don'ts about being a gay in jail.

At the beginning of day two I'm still laughing inside but not as much, for by now a few homophobic things have been said by others in Ad-Seg that offended me. The others now have been ranting and raving because of Cuba's very forward expressions.

By day three I'm on the verge of speaking up in defense of my one-time rival. Nobody should have to suffer through this shit. Being cut-down, degraded, insulted, back-bitten, hated, and physically assaulted day in and day out. I see my error clearly as I overhear one of the others speaking of a time he squirted a mixture of urine and feces at Cuba from an old shampoo bottle, right in her face. Not all inmates in here are this cruel, but enough are to make me see that this lack of concern for the gay community undoubtedly constitutes cruel and inhuman punishment.

All kinds of incidents have occurred since the de-classification and desegregation of gay people within this system, ranging from extortion to multiple assaults. One gay boy was assaulted time after time before he was housed back on 3-south. He would be assaulted on one straight tier to be rehoused on another straight tier to be assaulted again, only to be rehoused on yet another straight tier to be assaulted yet again.

Each incident alone doesn't appear to be much at all except a simple jailhouse fight, which occurs often here. But looked at all together from a distance, this circumstance has all the appearance of a hate crime.

Looking at things from this point of view it looks as if We The People are indirectly but effectively using the system (inmates included) to exact some kind of mass gay bashing. ▼

LETTERS

Town Hall quibble

I almost never quibble with a Dennis Conkin story, but in the case of the Mayor's Gay Town Hall article, I have one addition.

Dennis failed to mention the divine Joan Jett Blakk, who emceed that evening and did an outstanding job. Her humor, goodwill and repartee kept the meeting moving along.

I believe that most who attended felt the meeting was worthwhile. It is important that our community continue to have a dialogue with their elected officials on issues including AIDS education and funding, the gay and lesbian community center project, and improving the quality of life in the Castro District.

Most of all, I want to thank Joan for a wonderful job—a little bit of Terry Gross, a little bit of Oprah Winfrey and a whole lot of San Francisco!

Susan Leal
Member, Board of Supervisors

Tantrum follow-up

Re "Community tantrums," (Letters, 2/22): As one of those who have criticized the Salvation Army and as a gay man who was an IV drug user, and as a gay man who has been homeless, I'd like to say that Mr. Lenartz's letter was truly as big an example of "the pot calling the kettle black," or the "old reformed whore" routine as has been published in B.A.R.

Simply, Mr. Lenartz, none of us can change the views of the Salvation Army or the Christian Church. However, what many of us are complaining about and we do have the right and the responsibility to speak up about is the fact that these organizations are taking our money to fund their organization's oppression of our community as a whole. The "dog and pony show" of helping (?) some of our more down-trodden members is really disgusting when you step back and look at the whole picture.

I am grateful that you are obviously in recovery of some type, for your substance problem. However, your Cary Nation, temperance movement-type bitching at the community as a whole is not only inappropriate and self-righteous, it is also a complete waste of time. If I had read your words when I was using, they would not only have been dismissed, they would have driven me farther into my active addiction. I would like to respectfully suggest that you look into the issue of co-dependency and some of the literature written from some of the Anon programs.

All the people who are using drugs of various kinds, including the drug alcohol, are not drug addicts. There really are individuals who can handle their substances, and judging them to be the same as yourself is close-minded and bigoted. Of course, referring to heterosexuals as "breeders" is no different than referring to African Americans as "niggers," or Asian Americans as "chinks" (I consider those words offensive and obscene.) I wonder if B.A.R. would print a letter from a white-supremacist using such racial obscenities?

How can we complain of being discriminated against if we perpetrate the exact same level of discrimination towards any one group of humanity, especially judging individuals by their sexual orientation? Talk about hypocrisy with a capital H!

A. R. Anderson
San Francisco

Service dogs

PWAs who are legally disabled, or any disabled person who has or wants to have a dog, should know that the Americans with Disabilities Act includes an "emotional support" qualification for service dogs. My dog is not a "pet," she is a "service dog." Therefore a "no pets" building rule or policy does not apply to her. The \$300 deposit required for pets in my building does not apply to service dogs. By federal law I may take my dog wherever the general public is accepted. Public transport at no extra cost, including airplanes, where she may not be separated from me, restaurants, public buildings, hospitals, doctors' offices, etc. She has the same rights as blind persons' guide dogs, and hearing impaired persons' dogs (see the list on Muni buses).

My dog is my primary support person "to prevent social isolation and depression." Persons with disabling HIV should know this. By law no one may contest her status. If asked, I need only reply that she is a service dog and be able to prove, by social security print-out or medical certificate, that I am disabled. This is state, federal and municipal law. Sen. Marks's bill pertaining to this passed into law in 1994, which also provides for distinctive license tags (as yet undecided about color and shape!) for such animals. When those tags are available, no one will be able to challenge you and your dog's access to public areas, nor can landlords restrict them with no pets policies or deposits. Your animal's status will be visible.

As the law now stands, you need only state that your dog is a "service dog," with proof of disability if required. No one may challenge this or ask the nature of your disability, as clearly stated in the ADA.

Bow wow to you all!

Charles Shuts
San Francisco

Conduct unbecoming

I commend you on your excellent article concerning the passing of my roommate, Daniel Bonner ["Coroner Holds PWA's Body Over Possession of Pot," February 15]. I'm sure he is also proud that your newspaper would print such a story, so that the gay, lesbian, and straight people of San Francisco are now aware of the inhumane treatment that the indigent dead or any other deceased person can suffer at the hands of people like [Medical Examiner] Dr. Boyd Stephens and [Administrative Coroner Herb] Hawley, whose outdated policies are totally unacceptable to the citizens of this great city, no matter who they are.

I would like to respond to some of the comments made by Mr. Hawley, which are pure fabrications of a typical bureaucratic cover-up.

1.) Mr. Hawley states that the body was released to me shortly after I told the investigator that I held the Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA). This is a bold fabrication on his part. I informed the inspector when he entered the premises that I held the DPOA, not after the humiliating search of Daniel's possessions began. The body was not released to me "shortly thereafter," but rather after several phone calls to Daniel's doctor, his VNH nurse, two to Mr. Hawley, who then called Dr. Stephens. All this took about two hours, I certainly would not call that shortly.

2.) I did not try to conceal the pot, but I was called a liar by Dr. Stephens. No one asked me if Daniel was smoking pot for medical reasons. If Mr. Hawley and Dr. Stephens are so against the use of pot for medical reasons, why don't they summon the police to the Cannabis Club? The answer to this is that they would be stirring up a hornet's nest in which they would be severely stung, and I'm sure Willie Brown would have heads rolling at City Hall.

So instead of hassling the Buyers Club, they come into a home where grief-stricken people are coping with the loss of a friend or loved one. Their arrival and actions just add more grief and sorrow and are totally humiliating, so a death with dignity and love turns into a nightmare.

3.) It seems to me the Medical Examiner's office would have the capability to check on people's assets and worth through the use of a computer. Or perhaps their department has never heard of computers and the miracles of modern technology, or perhaps they are not educated enough to know how to run one. So why in this modern age of the computer do they have to violate citizens' constitutional rights, especially when they were notified of the death by a VNH nurse, and then enter a home without a warrant. Suppose, Dr. Stephens and Mr. Hawley, that my friend had been wearing a gold chain with a crucifix on it, would you have taken this item to a pawn shop or auction to be sold to pay for his cremation, how would you dispose of such a religious article?

4.) Dr. Stephens and Mr. Hawley, what would have become of Daniel's body had I refused to allow a search without a search warrant? Would you have left Daniel's body lying in his bed to rot, or perhaps toss it on the street as they did in medieval times?

5.) How dare you or anyone in your department threaten our VNH nurse for not reporting illicit drugs, namely pot. This lady is one of the most compassionate and caring persons I have ever had the honor to meet. It was through her help and guidance that I was able to keep Daniel at home until he passed away.

Get a grip on reality, guys, and don't try and play the tough bureaucrats, because that type of behavior does not sit well with any of the citizens of this progressive and humane city, especially, I hope, the mayor.

6.) Why don't you inform people like Celi Adams, President of Home Care Companions, of your policies so that your out-dated policies can be discussed in their class, which I have taken.

7.) Mr. Hawley was quoted as saying to the B.A.R., "There is a vast difference between a little marijuana and a little heroin." What bothers me is why was this connection made in regards to Daniel's situation. We are talking about pot being found in his room, not heroin, or are you just grasping at straws to cover up the travesties that your office has become known for?

In closing, a special thanks to Dennis Conkin, Mike Housh and Supervisor Ammiano, Dean Goodwin at the Mayor's Office, and Millie Valdez at the Citizens Assistance Bureau. With heartfelt appreciation I wish to commend all of you.

Thomas J. Battipaglia
San Francisco

Hostility fanciers

In his letter of February 22, Bret Schaneveltd states that he "would much rather have someone in the White House who I know is openly hostile to me than someone who makes many promises only to break his word later." Well, he should take heart.

After all, if he and enough of his fellow hostility-preferring queers stick to their principles and refuse to vote for Clinton in November, they'll get exactly what they want.

In fact, maybe we should take the next logical step and adopt this as the queer political slogan for this election year:

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San Francisco

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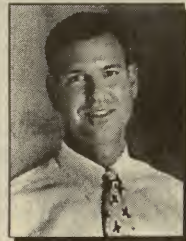
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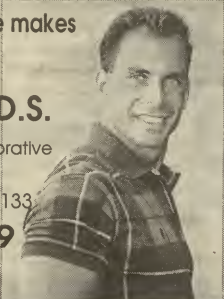


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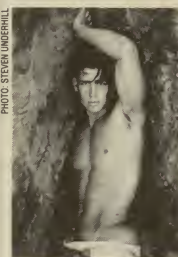
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LETTERS

Mirthless

Dennis Conkin's article "Gay Landlord's Attempted Eviction of PWA (Person With AIDS) Prompts Suit" has some inaccuracies. Statements about my actions as given by the tenant and his attorney are only their side of what happened. What about my side? There is slanting of facts and opinions against me, but no one asked me for my opinion. Of course, I cannot fully comment on this matter because the matter is still under litigation. However, I certainly am not prejudiced against PWAs as Conkin so unfairly characterizes me.

Most members of the Girth & Mirth/SF would prefer not being tied to Conkin's distorted assessment of our club or my problems with this particular tenant. You are implying a relationship that does not exist!

Unresearched character assassination should not be the object of Conkin's writings. He has an obligation to the gay community to seek the whole, unbiased truth, not to write sensational articles which hurt the reputation of gay individuals and gay organizations. He should save his combative energies for fighting Buchanan, Helms, and the so-called moral majority and all the factions who are the real enemies of all gays.

Tony Di Genova
San Francisco

Preposterous charges

It appears that we have been once again treated to one of Dennis Conkin's malicious hit pieces on a respected community figure. He now sees fit to assassinate the character of Anthony DiGenova, founder and 20-year board member of the Girth & Mirth Club of San Francisco.

In his article, involving a landlord-tenant eviction dispute between DiGenova and one of his tenants which is pending in the courts and in due course will be resolved there, Conkin strongly suggests that DiGenova is an anti-PWA bigot who commenced eviction proceedings because the tenant is a PWA.

I will not comment on the merits of the landlord-tenant dispute, which should be tried in the courts and not the newspapers, other than to note that it might have been nice had Conkin bothered to contact DiGenova for his side before writing the article.

However, as a fellow board member of Girth & Mirth of San Francisco, and as the club's newsletter editor, I know DiGenova well, and I can personally attest to the absolute absurdity of any notion that he is biased against persons with AIDS or that he would ever discriminate against anyone with AIDS. Anyone who knows DiGenova knows how preposterous any such charge is.

DiGenova has many, many close personal friends who have AIDS and whose lovers have AIDS. Just one notable example is AIDS activist Cliff Wilson, who recently died of AIDS and who for several decades was not only DiGenova's closest personal friend but also shared DiGenova's home for many years. Wilson had AIDS for many years and received extensive emotional support from DiGenova. Wilson was one of the co-founders of Girth & Mirth of San Francisco, together with DiGenova; Wilson was one of the club's incorporators; and Wilson served as an officer and board member of the club for many years in close conjunction with DiGenova.

In November 1995 Wilson, who at that time was terminally ill, was publicly honored by the City of Hayward for his long years of AIDS activism in the East Bay (see B.A.R. 11/9/95). At DiGenova's express urging, our club's newsletter prominently covered this event and congratulated Wilson for his achievements. In December 1995, after Wilson died, DiGenova personally wrote a moving eulogy of Wilson which was published in our club's newsletter. DiGenova is personally purchasing the headstone memorial for Wilson out of his own pocket. This is someone who is biased against PWAs? Give me a break!

As an additional example of how absurd the charge of AIDS discrimination is, the Girth & Mirth Club of San Francisco is hosting a multi-state bigmen's conference on June 27-30, 1996, and he was insistent that we include a seminar and workshop on AIDS health issues, treatment, and prevention. This is someone who is biased against PWAs? That is laughable.

DiGenova knows discrimination all too well to be a discriminator. In the 1950s when he was a teacher he won a landmark court case against a school district who had fired him solely because he was gay, a case that set a precedent for the rights of gay schoolteachers throughout the state. He has been an active supporter of the Girth & Mirth Club of San Francisco for over 20 years - a club which, contrary to Conkin's assertion, is not for "erotic" admirers of anybody, but rather is a nonsexual social club for large men and those who like large men, which is designed to provide social opportunities for a group which is heavily discriminated against in the gay community at large.

Dennis Kruszynski
San Francisco

[The editor responds: Girth & Mirth was mentioned for identification purposes only. Since DiGenova cannot comment - as he pointed out - his side of the story was given by his attorney. If he is dissatisfied, perhaps he should seek new legal counsel. And for anyone to suggest our community is free of community enemies is obviously ridiculous.]

Grave concerns on Cytolin

ACT UP/Golden Gate's recent promotion piece on the experimental mouse monoclonal antibody Cytolin ("What's Up with Cytolin," February 22) failed to strongly stress the potential harm associated with the use of this drug.

Furthermore, the article neglected to acknowledge the outpouring of skepticism about the underlying theory upon which the compound's mode of action is based. In fact, recent cries of caution issued to the HIV-infected by virologists and immunologists from San Francisco's own AIDS research community were noticeably absent from the treatment column.

What follows is the text of a public Internet posting that recently appeared on the USENET moderated newsgroup sci.med.aids. It documents the possible hazards of this experimental agent and offers PWAs a more objective information lead on Cytolin than simply the phone number of the drug's manufacturer.

People considering Cytolin therapy should be aware that immunologists not involved in the development and testing of this monoclonal antibody have expressed grave concerns about its potentially harmful effects in people with HIV. These concerns are documented in the minutes of a meeting of the Community Consortium in San Francisco on July 19, 1995. The minutes, written by Dr. Donald Abrams of the AIDS Program at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), report the proceedings of a meeting in which Allen D. Allen of CytoDyn, the developer of Cytolin, spoke.

Two noted immunologists at the meeting, Dr. Mike McGrath of the AIDS Program at SFGH, and Dr. Mike McCune of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology at SFGH, maintained that the CD8 cell adhesion molecules that Cytolin binds to are "integral to the functioning of the immune system." Dr. McGrath pointed out that expression of these molecules on CD8 cells "is critical for keeping Epstein-Barr virus infected B cells under control." Blocking that interaction, he said, could promote lymphoma, which often affects people in the later stage of HIV infection.

According to the minutes of the meeting, "chronic use [of Cytolin] may promote expanded viral infections in vivo as well as increase the likelihood of a cancer outgrowth, in Dr. McGrath's estimation." Allen's defense was that "immune adhesions are like the verform appendix - not absolutely needed in adults."

Dr. McCune continued to have difficulty accepting this explanation and questioned the logic behind the whole therapeutic approach.

Dave Pasquarelli
ACT UP/SF

Bouncy's desire

Last month my gay uncle (name: Otto, but he also answers to "Bouncy") and his lover visited us from Ohio. Let me tell you: all gays are not created equal. These guys were so square ... they actually asked to eat at Planet Hollywood.

Pet Coopers
San Francisco

Assaultive behavior

[An open letter to the new leadership of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club:]

This is to inform you of our collective outrage at the assault on Martha Knutzen by the Club's Treasurer, Ted Knapp, at the Labor Caucus meeting of February 2, 1996.

The assault went as follows, according to Martha and Fran and multiple eyewitness accounts of those who came to Martha and Fran's aid:

As Martha and her partner Fran were attempting to leave the contentious meeting in which Mr. Knapp personally attacked Martha's motives, Mr. Knapp ran around Martha and Fran as they passed him to leave, and he blocked their exit by standing in the threshold of the doorway, continuing to attack Martha verbally. Mr. Knapp then moved aggressively toward Martha and was blocked by Fran (who was pushed aside) and continued lunging and yelling at Martha even though he was being restrained by two male bystanders.

Moreover, Mr. Knapp issued an apology because he "spoke forcefully to [Martha] which threatened [her] personal space." He failed to even mention his assault on Martha. His apology stated he was immediately embarrassed by his behavior yet his letter of apology was dated nine days after the assault.

This hostile behavior and the response by the Club's leadership is unconscionable. It leads us to believe that the safety and active participation of members - especially that of women - is not protected and supported by the Club's leadership.

After serious consideration, we call for the resignation of Mr. Knapp as a sure sign from the leadership that it will finally take a Zero Tolerance policy toward outrageous, violent behavior.

Additionally, we call for a public apology from Club President Jeff Sheehy for his own verbal attacks on the motives of Club members at the Labor Caucus meeting, which allowed the meeting to degenerate, resulting in Mr. Knapp's assaultive behavior.

We look forward to your addressing this fundamental issue of Club members' safety - particularly for the safety and future participation of women.

Wendy Daw, together with other
Women of the Milk Club

WAYNE FRIDAY



Photo: Phil Migliarese Jr.

Meet the New Guys

Mayor Willie Brown introduced his gay and lesbian appointees to an appreciative crowd at the Feb. 28 Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club's breakfast at the City Club.

Dole Without a Cause

With the GOP presidential picture changing weekly (sometimes even daily), it now looks that, thanks to his impressive South Carolina win last Saturday, if any of the GOP hopefuls goes into the August convention with the nomination locked up, it will be Kansas Senator **Bob Dole**, the Grand Old Man of the Grand Old Party. However, the San Diego confab could still see hard-running candidates at its start, most likely Dole, **Pat Buchanan** and **Steve Forbes**.

Commentary

Buchanan has shaken the Republican Party to its core, and no effort will now be spared to push **Lamar Alexander** and two asterisks in the race, **Bob Dornan** and **Richard Lugar**, out of the running ASAP. This will be done so that the GOP can be "saved" from the fire-breathing Buchanan, the anti-gay, anti-immigration, anti-woman (he once wrote that feminists were little more than "haridians wielding the castrator's knife") isolationist, who also has no love lost for the nation's Jews and African-Americans.

The Republican powers-that-be know all too well that Buchanan spells certain massive defeat for them (they remember **Barry Goldwater** in '64) in November, and they'll see to it that whatever influence he and the fundies have on the platform (like retaining the abortion plank), he won't ever get the nomination nod. That, in all probability, leaves only 72-year-old Bob Dole.

What about Dole's chances of beating President **Bill Clinton**? Well, I have to agree with one of my favorite political writers, **Chris Matthews**, when he says, "Dole has everything a front-runner needs except a winning message."

The senate majority leader has the money necessary to pick up all the marbles in San Diego; he is running a campaign by the political book; has endorsements galore; you name it. Yet the man has nothing to say, other than to repeatedly remind Republican voters that he is the elder tried-and-true statesman of the party and therefore "deserves" the nomination.

Matthews points out that Dole has now spent "nearly \$40 million to get his illusive message across, and he simply hasn't done it." Of course, when the speaker is as seemingly out of touch with the concerns of the average American voter as Dole proved to be in New

Hampshire, that should come as no big surprise. No matter how many millions he has to throw around, the GOM will be in plenty of hot water against the younger, more assured **Bill Clinton** if he doesn't find some agenda, which he can mouth in a convincing manner, that's at least remotely relevant. If not, it's **Clinton** and **Gore** into the next millennium.

Daddy's boy

On CBS's March 3 *60 Minutes*, another GOP presidential hopeful, **Steve Forbes**, brushed aside questions about his late father's homosexuality by replying, "My father had his life. We respected it. What he meant to us and to others, I think speaks for itself." Those close to candidate Forbes, however, say that Malcolm's favorite child had a "difficult" time dealing with stories about his father's gay exploits.

Steve Forbes, no supporter of gay rights, recently told reporters that despite reports his father had on occasion propositioned male staffers at *Forbes* magazine, no one had ever actually presented him with facts that required action. He also said that he never spoke to his father about his alleged behavior.

Armstrong Williams, a long-time close family friend, said recently that "the alleged liaisons hurt Steve deeply. Any son would be hurt. His father was his hero, but it did not diminish his respect for him. Steve has always been so much against that lifestyle. It forced him to love the person, but not the behavior." Too bad junior isn't as big a man as his dad and could do both.

Palm Springs area Congressman **Sonny Bono** still is not happy with the openly lesbian lifestyle of grown daughter **Chastity**. "It's not my favorite thing that she's a lesbian," Bono told *USA Today* recently, adding that "as a father, you want your kids to marry, have children, but still parents have to understand that if your kid isn't you, don't blame the kid." Chastity says that when she first informed her dad that she was gay, "he was really supportive and wonderful, right off the bat." That's nice, Chaz, but family aside, Representative Bono has a reputation for being very anti-gay.

Mayor **Willie Brown** is hosting a fundraiser/reception for Assemblywoman-to-be **Carole Migden** next Tuesday, March 12 at the Fairmont, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Contributions are \$100 on up. Call **Pilar Gutierrez** at 415/241-9913 for more information. Supervisor Migden, who will be elected to Brown's former Assembly seat March 26, will take office in

Sacramento the morning of March 28. I predict that Carole will do us all proud!

More good news: In Portland, Maine, the Christian Civic League, apparently smelling sure defeat, announced this week that it won't push an anti-gay rights referendum this year after all.

To the longtime reader who wrote me about the recent execution of "Freeway Killer" **William Bonin**, who was put to death at San Quentin by lethal injection: This man was convicted of murder in the rape and torture of 14 young men and boys (and there were other victims), whose bodies he dumped along California freeways. Your letter was most interesting. As a moderate Democrat, I must admit that I'm not sure the state should be engaged in the business of taking human life. As a human being, however, I am convinced that the world is a little bit better off without such a monster in it.

LA Republican Mayor **Richard Riordan**'s re-election effort is off to a great start. Including a dinner held last week, which was attended by big-name Republicans and Democrats alike, the mayor already reportedly has nearly \$3 million in the bank. San Francisco's **Clint Reilly**, the expensive campaign consultant who managed Riordan's 1993 campaign and **Kathleen Brown**'s failed gubernatorial race the following year, will not be running the mayor's re-election effort, those close to the mayor confide.

Did you know that 20 of the 29 judges now sitting on the San Francisco Superior Court have been appointed by either **Pete Wilson** or **George Deukmejian**? Plan now to vote for highly qualified gay attorney **Kevin McCarthy** for Superior Court March 26. [For more information, see the interview on page 16.]

Ken Yeager badly needs our help to win the Democratic Assembly nomination in the 23rd District (San Jose) on March 26. Help Yeager join **Carole Migden** and **Sheila Kuehl** in Sacramento by sending a check - no matter how large or small - to Yeager for Assembly, 1925 Cleveland Ave., San Jose CA 95126. This guy has a very good chance of winning but needs funds badly.

The question on everyone's lips at City Hall is just who will Mayor Brown appoint to Supervisor Migden's seat when she moves on to Sacramento. Gay and lesbian leaders are calling on Brown to name someone from our community to that post. Time will tell, but as we all know by now, Willie Brown has a mind of his own and isn't afraid to use it. ▼



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SF Gay Labor Group Takes New Name

by Dennis Conkin

In an effort to reflect its inclusive gender and sexual orientation policies, the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance has formally changed its name to "Pride At Work/San Francisco Bay Area."

The group will be subtitled "The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Labor Organization" on all official letterhead and documents, according to the group's newly elected co-chair Nancy Wohlforth.

"Our organization includes members from around the Bay Area, so we wanted a name that better reflects our membership in Alameda and the South Bay," said Wohlforth, a labor activist and member of Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 3.

The group's co-chair is Howard Wallace, an organizer for Service Employees International Union, Local 250. Longtime labor activist Vince Quackenbush of SEIU Local 14 was elected as vice chair. Leslie Manning of Teamster's Local 921 was elected treasurer, and Larry Dow of SEIU Local 535 was chosen as secretary for the local chapter.

With a membership of 50,



PAWCo-Chair Howard Wallace.

Quackenbush said that for the "last couple of years" there have been calls within the group for the pioneering activist group to change its name.

The new national Pride at Work organization, with which the former LGLA is now associated, was founded on the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in 1994.

The Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance was active in the 1970s Coors Boycott, which started after

revelations that the brewery was linked to right-wing causes and discriminated against gay applicants, according to Quackenbush. Wallace and the legendary Harvey Milk successfully launched the boycott of the product in the lesbian and gay community.

The group was involved in the 1993 effort to convince the powerful AFL-CIO to extend its existing non-discrimination policies to include "civil rights for all persons without regard to sexual orientation." The AFL-CIO urged its affiliated bodies to "take an active role in opposing [ballot] measures which reduce the rights of people based on sexual orientation."

Pride At Work/SF Bay Area will hold a second conference June 27-June 29 this year at the Health Care Workers Union, Local 250 of the SEIU, located at 560 20th Street in Oakland.

Agenda items will include Internet organizing; unionizing non-profit agencies in the gay community; and forming gay, lesbian and bisexual committees in unions; plus workshops on bargaining for equal rights and benefits. ▼

For information and housing assistance during the conference contact (415) 284-7554.

Friendly Skies Blame Unions For Gay-Unfriendly Policies

by Mary Ann Swissler

Chicago-based United Airlines recently announced it has become the official air carrier for the NAMES Project's AIDS Quilt, and has made bereaved domestic partners eligible for its lower-cost emergency travel. But although the measures indicate a commitment to gay and lesbian customers, the founder of a gay and lesbian employees group at the airline says the company needs to take a look inside.

David Tomb, a reservations agent in the Los Angeles office, had his own reservations as he acknowledged the gestures are encouraging signs at United. "I think it's a good sign that a meaningful dialogue is possible," he told the B.A.R. "We have yet to start a meaningful dialogue with the company, but this is a good gesture."

Unfortunately, he said, the same kind of family emergency benefits extended towards a customer's domestic partner would not apply to an employee's part-

ner, nor is there any paid bereavement leave for domestic partners.

A United company spokesperson confirmed to the B.A.R. the company recently decided against instituting domestic partnership benefits, a decision he blamed upon the expense of renegotiating union contracts.

Regarding the disparity, Tomb commented, "It is entirely appropriate that the world's largest employee-owned company strive to meet the needs of its diverse employees. Diversity is something we as an airline have been professing for a long time now. Isn't it time we privately practice what we publicly preach?"

Tomb said the newly-formed group "United At United," which now has about 100 members, will push for domestic partnership benefits, diversity/sensitivity training, AIDS awareness and education, and a human resources policy for HIV-positive employees at the airline.

United's new public commitment to the Names Project and be-

reaved domestic partners comes in the wake of an unsuccessful but embarrassing lawsuit by two HIV-positive former company pilots. Christopher Prilliman and Paul Rafalowski filed a discrimination lawsuit against United, which they claimed forced them into early retirement at less than full benefits. The airline claimed it followed Federal Aviation Agency guidelines and offered ground jobs to both pilots who had developed AIDS, a claim both men denied. A Los Angeles judge eventually threw out the suit.

Richard Martin, spokesman for United Airlines in Chicago, told the B.A.R. the company's HIV-positive policy is "very, very strictly adhered to." Trainers go out into the workplace to train employees about conditions, focusing on managers, he said.

"Our policy on HIV is non-discriminatory in that we treat it like any other illness," he said, "and it is no different than if someone had cancer or if someone had a broken leg." ▼

MCC/SF Raises Glass To Celebrate 25 Years

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will celebrate 25 years of service on Sunday, March 10 with a dedication of "A House Of Prayer For All People," a 25-square-foot stained glass window by two Sonoma County artists.

An 11 a.m. worship service will dedicate the window, created by artists Roy E. Little and Jim Raidl of Little-Raidl Studios in Cazadero.

The window was created to honor the memories of several church members and leaders who have died, as well as honor a current associate pastor and member. The individual stained glass panels represent and celebrate symbols from world religions and spiritual traditions.

MCC/SF, which is located at 150 Eureka Street between 18th and 19th Streets in the Castro, will host a reception following the service in its Len Bates Social Hall. ▼

For more information contact MCC/SF at 863-4434.

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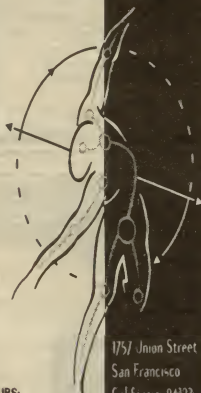
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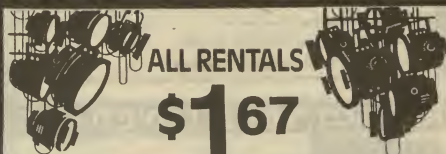
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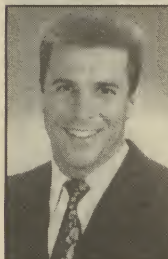
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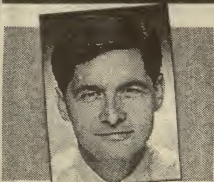
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GLAAD

GLAAD vs. GLAAD: What's Going On?

by Al Kielwasser

Since recently "reorganizing," the new "GLAAD/National" offices — located in New York, L.A., and Washington, DC — have bent over backwards to sell out the queer community. The new powers-that-be have fired people of color, issued racist press releases, refused to address transgender issues, and cooperated in the corporate oppression of queer youth voices (through the Internet). The list could (and does) go on and on.

With a million dollar budget, it seems that what GLAAD/National lacks is not funds, but integrity. Apparently, homophobes can buy their way out of public criticism.

Most recently, the national staff advised GLAAD/San Francisco that local chapters should not criticize folks like Lily Tomlin, Liz Smith, or Ellen DeGeneres ... or anyone else who gives money to the National GLAAD office (which, by the way, gives no funds to local chapters).

Despite that directive ... Over the past few decades, Lily Tomlin has established herself as the archetype of a unique closet case — the "conspicuously silent" — celebrities who might not deny their lesbian or gay identity outright, but certainly do *nothing* to affirm either. Instead, they desperately evade the issue at every turn and are often aided in their contortions by journalists, in both the queer and mainstream press.

Most recently, Tomlin's evasive maneuvers left one outspoken gay author — Armistead Maupin — feeling "profoundly disappointed and slightly used." Both Maupin and Tomlin had worked together on the newly-released documentary version of *The Celluloid Closet*, based on Vito Russo's pioneering history of "homosexuality in the movies." According to Maupin, he only agreed to write the film's narration — which Tomlin delivered — because she led him to believe that "she'd use this film as a vehicle for coming out." The film is now out, but Tomlin isn't.

Maupin told the *Village Voice* that, before his death in 1990, Vito Russo had specifically indicated that "he wanted an out-of-the-closet actor to narrate the film."

"My feeling was it should either be an openly gay person or a sympathetic straight person," Maupin said. "Instead, I have to endure the cruel irony of a film called *The Celluloid Closet* narrated by a closeted person!"

As for Tomlin's "progressive" appeal, Maupin advises fans to wake up and smell the homophobia: "I'm tired of hearing apologies from people saying, 'Well, she's done so much for gay people.' ... Silence about her sexuality undermines all her good work and it reinforces the notion that homosexuality is something to be tolerated, but never discussed. That's not the message I want to send to teenagers, nor the message of *The Celluloid Closet*."

Tomlin's silence was never more deafening, in fact, than on February 6 — as she yucked it up at a White House press event celebrating passage of the anti-gay "communications decency" act. One local journalist lambasted Tomlin's performance in a column aptly titled "Uncle Tomlin" (Susan Gerhard, *Bay Guardian*, Feb. 14). Bob Chatelle, a representative of the National Writers Union (one of 20 ACLU plaintiffs currently challenging the "decency" act in court), also found the

performance disturbing — although not entirely unexpected. "Given Tomlin's famous 'discretion' about her own sexual orientation, I suppose it's not surprising that she cares so little about censorship," Chatelle said. "But I find it most troubling that she would be this callous about the feelings (and Constitutional rights) of those of us who choose *not* to hide in our closets."

Unfortunately, a younger generation of lesbian and gay actors has not been immune to Tomlin's "discretion sickness." Most notable among them, perhaps, is Ellen DeGeneres. In interview after cagey interview, DeGeneres has refused to identify as lesbian — asserting her "right to privacy."

A recent feature in *TV Guide* (Feb. 10-16, 1996), the nation's most widely-circulated magazine, examined "The Ever Changing World of Ellen — And How She Runs It." The reporter — Daniel Howard Cerone — panders to a journalistic double standard that maintains homosexuality as the only privacy convention "respected" by celebrity reporters.

Cerone quotes DeGeneres, who says, "In my life, I've found that people are really frightened of strong women." He then observes: "Perhaps that's why DeGeneres politely refuses to dish up her personal life for public consumption. What she will share: She's in a loving relationship, and she feels too selfish right now to take on the challenge of motherhood."

It appears that DeGeneres actually refuses to dish up her *lesbianism*. She apparently has no problem "dishing up" a host of other personal facts for *TV Guide's* readers — from why "I don't dress to show off my body" to "I'm a very open-minded, very liberal, very strong woman. ... I'm very comfortable with who I am." DeGeneres also states, once more for the record: "It's amazing to me that everyone thinks I have a responsibility to divulge my personal life."

Of course, demanding one's privacy while parading through the popular press — in interview after interview — is laughably disingenuous. But even if, for a moment, the claim could be taken seriously, it still suffers from several logical faults. Such demands for privacy treat sexual identity as if it were salacious stuff. Yet asking Ellen DeGeneres if she is a lesbian is not at all the same as asking her with whom and how she "does it."

Internalized homophobia is seldom contained, but often externalized. And whenever celebrities are involved, it is typically amplified — on a massive scale. Whether gay public figures have an obligation to act as "role models" for a gay community is, at best, a secondary concern. What is at issue here is whether or not gay public figures are acting — however "inadvertently" — as role models for homophobes.

Indeed, the "privacy" rights typically claimed by closeted celebrities are indistinguishable from the "don't flaunt it" demands made by ardent homophobes (who insist the solution to homosexuality is to "just leave it in the bedroom" or "don't ask, don't tell.") Claims about "being discrete" demonstrate even less valor. As Armistead Maupin asks of closeted gay teachers: "What earthly good is your discretion, when teenagers are still being murdered for the crime of effeminacy?"

It's question that ought to be asked of closeted celebrities, too.

For all their undoubted talent, Lily Tomlin and Ellen DeGeneres remind us of the many ways that silence truly equals death.

Both Lily Tomlin and Ellen DeGeneres will be honored guests at the upcoming GLAAD Media Awards, orchestrated by the National offices.

• Remind celebrities like Tomlin and DeGeneres that what the "privacy" they invoke conceals most is pride; regularly encourage journalists to avoid double standards with regard to "privacy" and sexual orientation. Contact: Ellen DeGeneres, c/o Bantam Books Author Mail, 1540 Broadway, New York NY 10036; Jack Curry, Managing Editor, *TV Guide*, Radnor PA 19088; Bob Chatelle, National Writers Union & Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression, e-mail kjp@world.std.com, URL <http://world.std.com/~kjp/>.

• To discuss GLAAD/National policies and invited guests, contact: William Waybourn, Managing Director, GLAAD/National Offices, 150 West 26th Street, Suite 503, NY, NY 10001, tel. 212-807-1700, fax 212-807-1806, e-mail glaad@glaad.org.

Health Hazard

The January/February issue of *Men's Health* offers housing advice that one offended reader, Kerry Abel, describes as "a back-handed swipe" against gays. The magazine contains a brief column about finding a place to live, which suggests the following: "Step Two — Stake out the neighbors. Are they flaky? ... What are the colors of the local gangs? (Be careful if they wear pastels)." Contact: Steven Slon, Managing Editor, *Men's Health*, Rodale Press, Inc., 33 E. Minor Street, Emmaus PA 18098, tel. 610-967-5171, e-mail menhealth@msn.com.

Web Watch ...

The ever-expanding weave of the World Wide Web continues to provide unique queer, activist and media-related sources. Here's a few more sites along the way.

(1). Gay/lesbian popular music is the subject of two books published by Pop Front Press; information and photos are extracted online (<http://ourworld.com/puserve.com/homepages/PopFront>).

(2). Progressive Networks, Inc., maintains a useful web site that describes, indexes and links various activist organizations; contact Sam Tucker (e-mail samt@prognetwork.com). Progressive Networks, Inc. — Home of WebActive (<http://www.webactive.com>).

(3). Nearly two decades after his death, theorist Marshall McLuhan continues to provide insight into the media and messages that massage our daily lives; appropriately, McLuhan's ideas can now be explored online, at the Project McLuhan web site (<http://www.yvne.com/mcluhan>).

To report any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, call the 24-hour "MediAlert Hotline" (415-861-4588), or write to: GLAAD, 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, SF CA 94103, tel. 861-2244, fax 861-4893, e-mail gladsfba@aol.com, URL <http://www.cnet.com/gaytrek/glaad.html>.

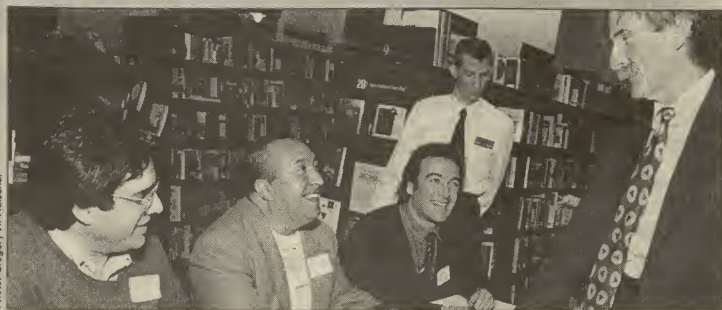


Photo: Gregory H. Fleischer

Food for Thought

Barnes and Noble hosted a signing for Project Open Hand's new cookbook, *Comforting Foods*, March 5. Here (l to r) editor Norman Kolpas, chef Fernando Castillo and chef Jeff Forman sign the collection of recipes for POH Executive Director Tom Nolan (far right) while B&N's Emery Frank looks on in the background. The event also included a tasting of some of the recipes featured in the book. All *Comforting Foods* proceeds go to POH.

The Late Great Alan Turing in a New SF-Based Web Site

by David Batterson

Alan Turing, an openly gay computer genius who lived from 1912-1954, had a rich and distinctive life. Among other things, he founded computer science (1936), cracked the German U-boat Enigma cipher during World War II (1939-45), led the world in schemes for computer software (1945-47), and started the Artificial Intelligence program (1946-50) and a non-linear dynamics program in biology (1950-54).

Now Oxford University mathematician Andrew Hodges, the author of the definitive biography *Alan Turing: the Enigma*, has created the Alan Turing Home Page on the World Wide Web. Actually, two sites: one in his native England and one that will be in San Francisco soon, which will duplicate the original, but load pages faster.

The Alan Turing Home Page contains information from the book, a chronology of events and the amazing accomplishments in Turing's life, photos and a "scrapbook." Hodges's intent is to bring attention to a gay man of singular achievement, potential, and

tragedy. As he put it, "Turing was the originator of the computer as we understand it now. He was also (like me) an open gay man. In 1952 he was arrested and although unrepentant at his trial had to submit to humiliating treatment with [Estrogen] hormones to avoid going to prison. He found himself under watch."

"In 1954 he ended his life. He ate an apple dipped in cyanide."

The dramatist Hugh Whitehead used Hodges's book as the basis of his play, *Breaking the Code*. Turing was played by Sir Derek Jacobi in London, on Broadway, and in Los Angeles. Hodges said that "a cut-down version of the play has now been filmed for BBC television, and should appear on the screen later this year. It will go a long way on the strength of the cast - again starring Jacobi, despite his age - and now including Prunella Scales and Harold Pinter."

Hodges isn't too happy with the results, saying that "little thought has been given to creating a television analog of the abstract stage set of the play, and I feel little enthusiasm for the overall project. What I really hope to see is a

real film based on my book, something ... true to history but connecting with the 1990s and beyond."

The biography of Alan Turing was originally published in 1983, simultaneously in the UK by Burnett Books and Hutchinson, and here by Simon & Schuster. The 1992 edition for which Hodges wrote a new preface, including some new documents, is now in print in the UK Vintage paperback edition and is distributed throughout the world except in the U.S.; go figure. It can be ordered in the Turing Web site, located at <http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/~ahodges/Turing.html>. Hodges can be e-mailed at andrew.hodges@wadham.ox.ac.uk.

David Batterson has written for *Bay Windows* (Boston), *Just Out* (Portland), *The Texas Triangle* (Austin), *WIRED*, *San Jose Mercury News* and many other publications. He may be reached via davidbat@prodigy.com. His web site is at: <http://pages.prodigy.com/webazine/homepage.html>.

'Hot Topics' Serves Up AIDS Research Info

by Hakeem Oseni II

The University of California, San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) has opened "Hot Topics," a highly informative new feature on its home page, located at www.caps.ucsf.edu/capsweb.

The new feature links browsers to articles, fact sheets, editorials, and comments about AIDS, gay and bisexual men, and related issues, both in English and Spanish.

CAPS is the largest consolidated research effort in the country focusing on the social and behavioral aspects of AIDS prevention and early intervention. According to a press release, research is conducted locally, nationally, and internationally.

The site also features a "Chat Line: You Tell Us" where browsers can post their own opinions on a particular topic or read other people's responses.

The question currently posted is, "Why do some gay and bisexual men continue to have unsafe sex?" Other topics include "What are gay men's HIV prevention needs?" Links in each document can take people directly to the origins of the research, facts, and figures presented.

"For the future of prevention efforts in our community, we need to understand what we can do to help people stay safe for the long run," said CAPS Director Thomas Coates.

"Rates of HIV infection have declined in certain populations,

but not in others," Coates said. "Young gay and bisexual men, gay and bisexual men of color, and those who use alcohol and other drugs continue to be at high and increasing risk for HIV infection."

Hot Topics also includes a full text copy of Ron Stall's article, "How to Lose the Fight Against AIDS Among Gay Men: Declare Victory and Leave the Field," and fact sheets on how prevention does make a difference.

CAPS also conducts ethical studies and policy analyses of AIDS-related issues, provides a program of technology transfer and exchange with community-based organizations, and trains U.S. and international scientists in AIDS and AIDS prevention. ▼

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Photo: Rick Gerharter

Fr. Richard Purcell of Marty's Place. Behind him stands a rack of hats and caps, an informal memorial to residents both past and present.

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Marty's Place:

A Loving Home for the Sick and Homeless

by Hakeem Oseni II

Father Richard Purcell came to San Francisco in July 1989 to take care of his brother, Marty, who had "called at a bitter end," homeless, addicted to crystal methamphetamine, and suffering from

AIDS. After Purcell, a Franciscan, got a flat in the Castro — and after his brother died there shortly thereafter — he found a new focus: to give a home to homeless people with HIV.

In 1993 he formed the non-profit Aurora Dawn Foundation, moved to a house at 1165 Treat Street in the Mission district, and opened up six rooms for homeless people with HIV called "Marty's Place." The residents contribute a third of their income to cover the expenses of the house; some of the food and all the operating budget is privately donated. The foundation receives no funding from the church or government. Purcell feels that money has too many strings attached to it.

"We wanted to have freedom so the board of directors can do what they feel is best," he said.

"So far we've made it," he added confidently. "We've paid for the house." The sturdy brown Victorian has a spacious sunny living room, dining room, and fully equipped kitchen as community spaces, and is very warmly decorated with stuffed animals and other interesting personal items.

"I'm happy," resident Giovanni Mendieta told the B.A.R. "I've been here two years."

Another second year resident, Bruce Gramkan, identified what makes him happy at Marty's Place when he said, "The community aspect of being together is very beneficial; you get that support and company you need. You're also around people who aren't going to bring you down." He added that the residence connects him with a lot of support, and said, "I have a lot of love in this house."

"Any kind of place you go into you're going to have problems, but the problems were my own fault," Gramkan said. "I was an angry person, very defensive; I also had a crystal meth problem."

"You have problems, but you work them out."

House rules

"We have three rules here: you have to be homeless or on the verge of homelessness, have HIV/AIDS, and not be using [illegal drugs]," according to Purcell. "But sometimes those are the people who need it the most." He said

he has had to "give the boot" to drug users because "it's not safe for people in the house," adding that some have caused violence in the house because they were on something.

"Seeing good people who just can't kick it — so destroyed," he said, shaking his head.

Purcell said when people come to the residence they are often very wounded, very fearful and very angry. "Some are even hateful. Here they are being affirmed and accepted as they are because the atmosphere in the house is one of loving. Whatever is in them that's just waiting to bloom, blooms."

Purcell said residents are referred to Marty's Place by local social service agencies. There is a waiting list of 23 people at the moment, he said, then sadly added that many of those on the list will have already passed away by the time a space opens.

Purcell told the B.A.R. his first client, Clarence, was a very tall and very ill man who was dropped off on the doorstep of Marty's Place before it was even ready to receive people. "He never spoke," he remembered, "until one day I told him that someone was going to the store and I asked if he wanted anything. He asked for orange nail polish."

"They only had red, and he had beautiful long nails," he recalled, and reflected upon the joy his first resident felt from looking at his freshly polished nails.

Clarence's photo sits, with a dozen others, on a mantelpiece to commemorate the 13 young men who have died at Marty's Place since it opened. When prompted, Purcell describes some of them as "hellions" and others as "sweethearts."

Memorial services for their deceased are held inside the home, and some of the ashes are taken to an Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Purcell came up with the name for the foundation — Aurora meaning "dawn" in Spanish — early one morning overlooking the San Francisco sky. "It's not the end of life," he said of the residence. "This is the beginning."

The foundation is looking into opening a residence for homeless women with AIDS in the building next door, which is going up for sale this spring. ▼

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Alameda AIDS Chief Suspended

by Mary Ann Swissler

The Alameda County AIDS Office director for the past five years, Eugene Richards, has been replaced in a massive shake-up of the county Public Health Department.

Richards has been transferred to another position inside the Public Health Department, with AIDS Office Fiscal Director Barry Brinkley assuming the duties of interim director, according to Public Health Department Director Arnold Perkins.

According to internal memos obtained by the B.A.R., the reorganization will place the Office of AIDS Administration under the jurisdiction of another department, Communicable Diseases.

There will be no funding decrease, but the change will take effect much sooner than the 18-month transition period proposed by Richards. He was notified by Perkins on February 28 that he was being suspended and placed on 30 days unpaid leave of absence for inefficiency and neglect of duty.

The action stemmed from Richards's refusal to provide a transition plan to Perkins for the reorganization. The B.A.R. was unable to reach Richards by press time.

Perkins told the B.A.R. that a permanent replacement will be found through an open hiring process, which will include holding public forums to get community-wide input. As for the reorga-

nization, which will place AIDS programming in the hands of needle exchange proponent Dr. Barbara Allen, Perkins said his office will meet with representatives of the entire East Bay AIDS community, including the AIDS Advisory Board and the Ryan White Title I Planning Council.

Opinions in the community remained deeply divided, however.

In a March 1 letter to Alameda County Supervisor Mary King, an unknown number of staff members inside the offices, located at 1970 Broadway Avenue in downtown Oakland, expressed their disagreement with the decision. They called for a longer transition period, including Richards' reinstatement.

Reverend Yvette Flunder, executive director of Ark of Refuge, told the B.A.R., "It didn't have to be this way. If this process had been really inclusive, there would have been both support and buy-in." Contract applications are

being disrupted while the problems are ironed out, she said.

However, ACT UP/East Bay's John Iversen had nothing but encouraging words for Richards's exit from the AIDS Office. "Hopefully the cynicism and the favoritism will end. A year ago we did a petition signed by over 90 people with HIV that there were problems with the AIDS Office. That made Arnold Perkins aware at least that a lot of people were dissatisfied, and I'm glad that he finally took some action."

Iversen commented that the reorganization will not be seen as a problem by the East Bay AIDS community, so long as the Ryan White maintenance of effort agreement is maintained and no front-line services are reduced. The Public Health Department has vowed not to cut funding in its announced changes.

Echoing these concerns was AIDS Project of the East Bay Executive Director Valerie Papaya-

Mann, who was elected chair of Ryan White Title I Planning Council. "As an executive director of the largest service provider in Alameda County, my primary concern is that we provide the best quality services to people with AIDS that we're able to," she said. "It is not clear at this point if the reorganization would enhance our ability to do that or whether it will hamper our ability."

One of the expressed concerns with a more diffuse delivery system of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services is a lowered visibility. Iversen commented that that is already a problem with Richards. "Eugene has no support in the broad AIDS community," he said. "I would hope they would go outside the office and bring someone with a new fresh perspective in," particularly someone who has strong community support.

"Someone who knows people with AIDS and someone who knows the epidemic," he said. ▼

Reality

Continued from page 1

years ago, with encouraging results. Unfortunately, according to a spokesperson for the Female Health Company, the company president was told at an FDA panel meeting two years later, "Because sodomy is illegal in many states, we cannot support an anal condom."

According to Richard Sorian, a press representative in the office of national AIDS Czar Patsy Fleming, after the panel's statement was reported in the B.A.R., his boss "made inquiries to the FDA and the Department of Health and Human Services, and they are being pursued."

"What happened five years ago is hard to find out," he acknowledged, "but we're looking for the transcripts, and looking at who was involved in making those decisions."

"Anal intercourse is not something we see as taboo," he said. "It's actively looked into."

Some of the advantages of internal condoms, according to Steve Gibson of the Stop AIDS Project, are that "it is stronger than latex, tops prefer it because it is less constrictive, it's another option for people who are allergic to latex or have a problem with

condom size, and it has greater surface area protection." Also, users say, because it is worn by bottoms it increases safer sex control for those men; it can be put into place hours before sex, which reduces fumbling just before insertion, and also provides long-lasting protection to men who may get so high over the course of the evening their judgment fails; and it can be used with any lubricant.

Virtually everyone, from Katz to Ammann to Sorian to the company spokesperson, admits the device needs further testing. Ben Schatz, who sits on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and is executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, agreed that Phase II and III tests are in order, and that San Francisco is a likely place for those tests to take place - but said it is up to the Female Health Company, not the city, to initiate them as soon as possible.

"Every indication I've gotten from HHS is that they're open to the concept of testing internal condoms for anal usage," he said. "Once the FDA is open, then it's up to the manufacturer. Many of us want to see research done on its applicability and effectiveness for anal use, but you can't force a manufacturer to test a product." ▼



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So, what's the prognosis? Most experts agree that mortgage rates will remain relatively stable for a while, with periodic ups and downs. Right now they seem to be going down a little, but who knows what the future holds. Compared to the double-digit rates of the 1980's, interest rates should not present an obstacle to anyone who is seriously interested in buying a home.

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Kevin McCarthy: A Judge for Yourself

by Dennis Conkin

Openly gay San Francisco attorney Kevin McCarthy is challenging straight Marin County Republican Doug Moore, a rear admiral in the anti-gay U.S. Naval Reserve, for a seat on the San Francisco Superior Court bench.

McCarthy is a graduate of Hastings College of the Law and has served as a trial attorney with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office for the past ten years. An experienced trial attorney, he has tried more than 70 jury trials.

If McCarthy is successful in his Tuesday, March 26 election

bid, he will become the second openly lesbian and gay San Francisco Superior Court judge elected in history. Longtime lesbian community leader and advocate Judge Donna Hitchens - who has endorsed McCarthy - was the first.

Out of 1,554 members of the California judiciary, there are only four openly lesbian or gay judges in all, and McCarthy says that gays and lesbians have been frozen out of the appointment process because of anti-gay bigotry.

"Harvey Milk said that unless we are at the table and behind the closed door, they're never going to treat us as equals," McCarthy recently told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Without lesbian and gay judges to inform and educate the judiciary, he added, the lesbian and gay legal issues that come before judges may be ignored, and rulings may suffer.

Property rights and custody issues for gay parents are among the more important legal issues facing lesbians and gays, he said.

McCarthy also believes that judges are too removed from the people they serve. That is especially true of Moore, who was appointed a judge late last year by Governor Pete Wilson, despite his Marin residence.

"I'm a San Francisco homeowner who seeks to represent the city in which I live," McCarthy said. "My opponent has not lived in San Francisco for the past 20 years. He maintains a home in Ross and claims to live in a unit on Beale Street."

"He registered to vote in San Francisco three months ago, the day he was sworn into office."

One lesson McCarthy has learned from the campaign trail is that the electorate wants judges to be active in their communities - and accessible.

"I think that judges, just like any elected official, have an obligation to make themselves available and responsive to the people they represent," he said.

'Waste of Money and Resources'

McCarthy told the *B.A.R.* one of the cornerstones of his campaign concerns the rehabilitation and treatment of the non-violent offenders and drug-related prisoners who have caused massive overcrowding of the state's prison system.

"It's a waste of money and re-



Attorney Kevin McCarthy could become the second openly gay SF Superior Court judge March 26.

sources to put non-violent drug offenders in prison. What we need are drug courts that work and opportunities for non-violent drug addicts to enter community-based rehabilitation programs," he said.

McCarthy said that many addicts who had turned to crime have been able to "turn their lives around" in such programs.

McCarthy has no hesitation in keeping violent offenders incarcerated, and said that although he is personally opposed to the death penalty, as a Superior Court judge, he would enforce the law.

Although the conservative Moore has been endorsed by the majority of his fellow Republican judges - including Judge Anne Bouliane - and the gay Log Cabin Republican Club, McCarthy has been endorsed by 12 appellate and trial judges, including Hitchens; Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal Tony Kline; and openly gay Municipal Court Judge Herb Donaldson.

"I also have the support of the Sheriff, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the San Francis-

co. Police Officers Association, and the San Francisco Deputy Sheriff's Association. I'm the only candidate in this race who has experience in criminal law," McCarthy said.

A former member of the Board of Directors of the Gay Rights chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the lesbian and gay rights LIFE Lobby, McCarthy is also endorsed by the National Women's Political Caucus, the League of Conservation Voters, the San Francisco Labor Council and other progressive groups.

He expressed some concern that the local media controversy over the upcoming election of municipal judges has eclipsed his own candidacy.

"This campaign has received very little press coverage. I am concerned that my race has been overshadowed," he told the *B.A.R.* ▽

For more information about McCarthy's campaign contact McCarthy For Superior Court at (415) 552-2919.

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DA Hallinan Beefs Up Hate Crimes Unit Assignments

by Mary Ann Swissler

Through a major reshuffling of assignments, District Attorney Terence Hallinan has kept his campaign promise – and then some – to create a Hate Crimes Unit that has enough personnel to better address the increase in offenses against gays and lesbians, ethnic and religious minorities, and women.

It will go from a one-person to a five-person outfit, and possibly more, according to Dennis Collins, a criminal investigator reassigned to Victim Witness Investigations inside the D.A.'s office. Collins said that he will be able to focus on helping hate crime victims through the maze of the criminal justice system, and commented, "Without the witnesses and without the victims, we have no case. These are the people who have suffered the tragedy."

Collins said the unit will be expanded from a single deputy D.A. assigned half-time, Chuck Haines, who will remain Head of the Hate Crimes Unit. Additional assignments include Paul Henderson as a misdemeanor hate crimes D.A., and Ron Huberman and Ron Leon, as investigators focusing on hate crimes.

A lot of effort has gone into making sure the unit reflects the community most deeply impacted by hate crimes. Haines and Collins are both openly gay, as is Huberman. Henderson and Leon are both African-American.



The new and improved Hate Crimes Unit (minus Ron Leon) in the DA's office (l to r): Dennis Collins, Ron Huberman, Chuck Haines, DA Terence Hallinan and Paul Henderson.

Haines commented that he expects a woman D.A. to be assigned sometime this year.

He said that the value of the additional staffing will be immeasurable. "It's a major effort by the new D.A. to service these types of crimes. ... Investigators will help plug some holes in the system, helping locate witnesses when it comes time to go to court, go to crime scenes," and preparing courtroom visual aids.

Huberman said that while he has helped out on a lot of gay-related cases in the past, this position will make it official. He told

the B.A.R. that he remembers around 15 years ago, when he started, when the climate was so homophobic that gays and lesbians refused to come forward if they were bashed. "The cops treated them like dirt when they came in," he said.

He added that having openly gay D.A.s and investigators is itself a model, and Hallinan has shown by assigning them to a Hate Crimes Unit that he is interested in placing his personnel where they can have an effect on the community.

Leon was out of town at

presstime and could not be reached for comment.

Jill Traeger of the Intergroup Clearinghouse commented, "I'm delighted. This is a huge leap forward, over a 100 percent increase. We had specifically said that it was of pressing importance that they assign people of color to do some of the work, so on that level I feel like they've been really responsive."

"I am disappointed that they didn't assign a woman, either as an investigator or a D.A. But my sense is that there's an open door there at the D.A., that if we hear complaints they'll listen." ▼

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In addition to his usual warm, upbeat and humorous presentation, Mr. Tamases will review the Hawaii marriage cases and the California attempts to limit same-sex marriages. He will discuss the human rights and constitutional support for same-sex marriages, and estate planning and tax effects. This will be a worthwhile evening for you and your loved ones and friends.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Splitting Heresy Department:

Episcopalians Ask: What's Up, Doctrine?

by Bob Roehr

Did retired Episcopal Bishop Walter C. Righter commit heresy when he ordained a "practicing homosexual," Barry Stopfel, into the Episcopal Church?

A traditionalist group within the Church believes so. In January 1995 ten bishops filed a "presentment" demanding Righter be tried for violation of Church doctrine.

A series of legal wrangling led to Wilmington, where a court of nine bishops in dark suits and Roman-collared magenta shirts heard six hours of preliminary testimony Tuesday, February 27. They are struggling to answer the basic question of whether or not the Church even has doctrine on the matter.

Being gay in and of itself isn't a problem for Episcopalians. A 1976 resolution of the General Convention, the Church's governing body, declared "all persons are children of God." Today more than 100 openly gay or lesbian people serve as priests.

The Church allows heterosexual priests to marry, but not homosexuals. Nor does it approve of sex outside of marriage - hence, the fictitious presumption that ordained gays and lesbians are celibate.

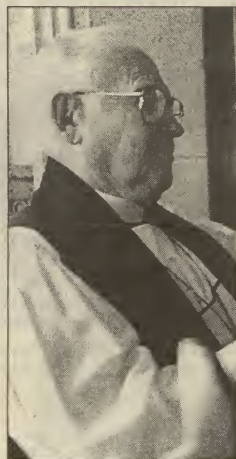
"Nothing may be taught that does not agree with Scripture," argued the traditionalists' attorney, A. Hugo Blankenship, Jr.

And, he continued, since the Bible doesn't explicitly say you can ordain practicing homosexuals, then you can't. He stressed the importance of "Christian marriage and family values."

Calvin C. Tennis, Bishop of Delaware, asked, "Is doctrine fixed and never changing, or does it change itself through the ages?" He indicated support for the latter, by citing pacifism in the early church which denied baptism to soldiers and more recent changes on divorce and remarriage.

Blankenship didn't "think the Church has changed its doctrine on marriage." He believed "doctrine can only be changed by the Church itself."

Frederick H. Borsch, Bishop of



On trial: Walter C. Righter.

Los Angeles, engaged the attorney in a series of questions over capital punishment, abortion, and whether resolutions of the Church's General Convention did in fact constitute doctrine. That body has passed as many as 500 resolutions at one of their triennial meetings.

Blankenship conceded "probably not many involved Church doctrine." He thought they should be considered on a case-by-case basis. But he offered no firm guidelines as to which did and did not constitute doctrine.

Tennis sought clarification between doctrine and discipline. He saw the former as the foundation of faith and the latter as canon law governing institutional operations. "Law has to be clear and spell out consequences. How can it be less clear for doctrine, which is far more serious?"

The attorney sought refuge in traditional practice which is so self-evident it need not be explicit.

Douglas E. Theuner, Bishop of New Hampshire, used the example of speeding where restrictions and penalties are enumerated. "In the absence of clarity," he ventured that perhaps "the General Convention has obscured (the issue) to such a point that a person cannot be held accountable."

Blankenship pointed to the 1977 bishop's resolution reaffirming "our present understanding of" traditional marriage to buttress his case.

Those words were troubling to Arthur E. Walmsley, retired Bishop of Connecticut. He recalled 1977, when the Church "made a profound change" in understanding the traditional role of women and allowed their ordination to the priesthood.

'No Lone Rangers?'

Blankenship argued for discipline among the Church's bishops. "There ought to be no lone rangers," he said, citing a resolution of the House of Bishops. "The language is clear, the bishop is not free to make his own judgment. The alternative is disintegration and irrelevancy."

That brought rebuke from an astonished Theuner, "Our Church is filled with lone rangers," he cried.

Michael F. Rehill dominated the afternoon session of the hearing. "We seem to have forgotten

the presentment, the charges brought against Walter Righter," the Bishop's defender said in his opening remarks.

He called Blankenship's arguments "curious" and "baffling." "Nowhere does the word morality appear in the brief of the presenters," nor does the word marriage.

"Doctrine" and "homosexual orientation" never appear in the same document let alone the same sentence" of the two resolutions which form the foundation of the presenters' case. "I almost feel like I'm shooting at a moving target, because their arguments keep changing."

"The reason we are here is because the presenters don't understand the doctrine of the Church," thundered Rehill. He laid out the case for "doctrine with a capital 'D.'" He characterized this minimalist approach as the Anglican tradition.

"There are things necessary for us to believe to be Christians ... things which you must believe to be a member of this Church. Human sexuality is not one of them." Human interaction is discipline, according to Rehill.

He called marriage "one of those things that are loosely referred to as doctrine, but it is not." He labeled it both "teaching" in the Bible and "discipline" as outlined in canon law and the Book of Common Prayer.

Rehill argued that the resolutions cited by the presenters did not prohibit the ordination of non-celibate homosexuals. Had they wanted to pass such resolutions, they would have. But those types of explicit efforts have "failed again and again."

He chastised the presenters for trying to "trivialize doctrine" by making it a matter of a simple majority of the House of Bishops.

'Degrees of Offenses'

The rebuttal period brought a question from Bishop Tennis to Blankenship: "If Righter is guilty, would that mean that all homosexual priests in committed relationships, and the bishops who ordained them, should be deposed?"

Blankenship shied away from an absolute answer to the logical extension of a victory by the presenters. He said there were "degrees of offenses" and it was "essentially a diocesan problem."

However, last year the presenters had written that they did intend to go after other violators. That list includes the Bishops of Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, and dozens more. The stakes are high indeed.

It was clear from their questioning that many of the nine Bishops of the Court were searching for a middle ground. If the Episcopal Church has been able to finesse highly charged moral issues such as abortion and capital punishment and not view them as doctrine, then surely it could do so over the seemingly less central issue of ordination of practicing homosexuals.

But perhaps it cannot find such compromise in its deliberations over the next few weeks. The traditionalists took a seldom used route when they chose to file a presentment. The legalities of the process may allow room for only a yes or no vote on the formal charges.

As Michael Rehill said in his closing remarks, "It is difficult to find a middle ground when you are dealing with heresy." ▼

Dems Ask Perry To Investigate Gay Policy

United Press International

A group of House Democrats asked Defense Secretary William Perry on Thursday, February 29 to investigate allegations the military was violating the administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

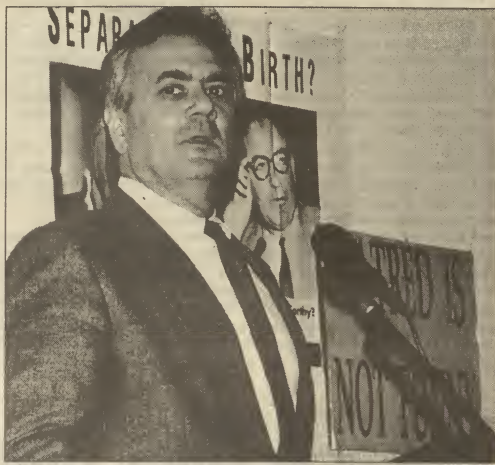
Six members of Congress signed a letter to Perry saying they were troubled by reports that the military was still investigating the sexual orientation of soldiers.

"It is our understanding of current policy that homosexual servicemembers are still allowed to remain in the military, as long as they keep their sexual orientation private," the letter said. "At the same time, commanding officers are forbidden from asking, either directly or indirectly, about soldiers' sexual orientation."

The letter was signed by Representatives Pat Schroeder of Colorado; Marty Meehan, Barney Frank, and Gerry Studds of Massachusetts; Neil Abernethy of Hawaii; and Jane Harman of California. Frank and Studds are both openly gay.

"We urge you to thoroughly investigate all violations of this policy and take all necessary steps to abide by the 'don't ask' part of the bargain," they said.

Earlier this week, a watchdog group accused the Pentagon of maintaining a "continuous pattern of abuse" in its policy, which it said has caused a four-year high in the number of homosexuals forced



Rep. Barney Frank was one of the letter's co-signers.

to leave the military.

"The evidence I have doesn't support that conclusion," Defense Secretary William Perry said when asked earlier this week about the report.

Perry said that although the numbers of homosexuals discharged in 1995 was more than 20 percent higher than in 1994, the figures — an average of about 700 a year for the past five years — have not shown any marked esca-

lation that would indicate trouble with the policy.

The Democrats said that while "don't ask, don't tell" was still discriminatory, it was designed to protect homosexuals from persecution. They said it was appalling to hear that the military would go to great lengths, including questioning the soldiers' friends and family, to prove homosexuality. ▼

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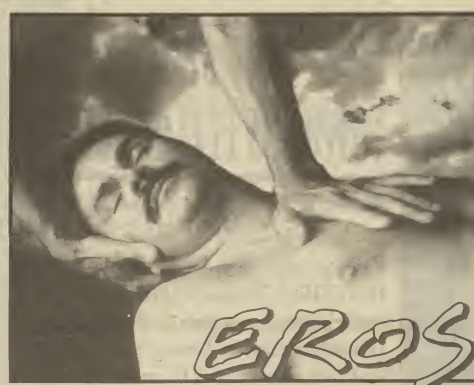
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New York's Annual St. Pat's Spat's Begun

United Press International

The Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization filed a federal suit in Manhattan federal court February 26 against New York City, hoping to get a permit for a protest march before this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

A federal judge rejected a similar lawsuit last year, so the group demonstrated on Fifth Avenue without a permit — and said it is prepared to do so again as a protest against what it calls "an unconscionable act of prejudice."

ILGO wants to stage its protest on Fifth Avenue before the traditional parade begins. In the past, the Police Department has argued that it is logistically impossible to accommodate both the protesters and the parade marchers on the same street on the same day.

Sal Cerece of ILGO said the suit argues that the city's logistical worries are unfounded this year since the parade falls on a Saturday. He said the suit also criticizes the city's system for handling permit requests.

"The lawyers are also attacking the permit system as fundamentally unconstitutional, because it allows the Police Department to reject an application for

any reason. There are no checks on the system," Cerece added.

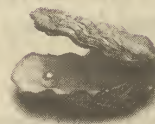
Since 1993, ILGO has waged an unsuccessful legal battle for permission to march in the parade behind its banner. The parade sponsors, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, have refused, suggesting that members instead walk behind banners representing counties of Ireland, with no further identification.

In 1995, the Hibernians won a court ruling that the parade is a private religious event and therefore the sponsors are not required to include anyone who asks to march.

The new lawsuit, like the old one, charges denial of a permit is unconstitutional because it violates First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and assembly.

"ILGO only seeks the right to march along the parade route well before the parade begins, in order to express its view that its exclusion from the parade is an unconscionable act of prejudice, one deeply injurious to persons who take pride in their Irish heritage and who are denied participation in a celebration of that heritage owing solely to their sexual orientation," the suit states. ▼

NATURALLY,



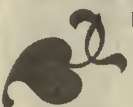
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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Castro Biz Juices Up Vancouver-Bound Activists

by Dennis Conkin

AIDS activists from ACT UP/Golden Gate will be the beneficiaries of at least \$5,000 from this weekend's grand opening of Re•Juice•A•Nation, a new juice and herbal tonic store located at 518 Castro Street.

Half of every dollar raised during the March 8-10 grand opening will benefit the Vancouver Project, to be used to send cash-strapped ACT UP/Golden Gate members to the XI International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"We wanted everyone to understand that we intend to become a contributing partner in this community from the moment we open our doors," said co-owner John

Murphy in a press statement.

The store sells fresh and organic juices, fruit smoothies, Chinese elixirs, and herbal tonics. One of the Re•Juice•A•Nation highlights will be an interactive menu board, which provides specific drink recommendations after customers enter their nutritional needs.

"We're hoping that the community shows up at the store in droves to support us during this weekend-long benefit," said ACT UP member Ed Zold.

The grand opening will include entertainment, celebrity stop-bys by Supervisors Carole Migden and Tom Ammiano and others, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and a "Meet The Activists Open House" on Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. Events and entertainment

will continue through the weekend.

As part of the weekend benefit for the AIDS activist chapter, a special banana-laden drink called "The Jeff Getty" will be available for thirsty customers. Getty, the internationally famous recipient of a controversial baboon bone marrow transplant during his battle against HIV/AIDS, will make a special appearance at the store Friday evening, according to ACT UP/Golden Gate. ▼

For more information about the Re•Juice•A•Nation grand opening AIDS benefit, contact ACT/UP Golden Gate at (415) 252-9200, fax (415) 252-9277, or e mail actupgg@out.org.

Dance-A-Thon This Saturday

by Dennis Conkin

An unprecedented line-up of hosts and performers will appear at the San Francisco AIDS Dance-A-Thon this Saturday, March 9 at the Moscone Center, organizers say.

Last year's annual event raised more than a million dollars for Mobilization Against AIDS, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and 14 other Bay Area AIDS groups.

More than 7,000 people are expected to rock Moscone Center during this year's event, each of

whom have collected a minimum of \$75 in pledges for dancing.

Queen Latifah, Grammy Award winner and co-star of the hit television series *Living Single*, will return as host. Performers will include Naughty By Nature, Grammy winning R'n'B artists SILK, and openly gay pop artist Jimmy Somerville.

Diva original Crystal Waters, Jon B, and Lisa Santiago will also perform during the AIDS fundraiser.

Latifah will co-host the star-packed evening, along with *Living Single* co-stars T.C. Carson and Erika Alexander. Comedians

Margaret Cho and Cheech Marin will also co-host the annual AIDS benefit. Also included will be a raffle of airline tickets, hotel rooms, theatre and concert tickets, and memorabilia.

Late registration for the Dance-A-Thon is available by calling (415) 392-9255. The event kicks off at 7 p.m. and continues through midnight, according to SFAF spokesman Derek Gordon. Dance-A-Thon participants must be 18 or over. ▼

For more information or registration contact (415) 392-9255.

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Cal Med Assn Votes Down HIV Reporting

The California Medical Association's House of Delegates voted Tuesday, March 5 to overturn its controversial stand on mandatory name reporting of Californians who test positive for AIDS - or who seek treatment for symptoms of AIDS.

Last year the CMA sponsored SB 1633, a state Senate measure by right-wing Republican California State Senator Newton Russell of Glendale, requiring mandatory reporting.

After the CMA voted to sponsor the legislation, opposing factions within its membership introduced the resolution overturning the sponsorship.

- Dennis Conkin

Hawaii

Continued from page 1

benefits to domestic partners would satisfy the 1993 state Supreme Court's order mandating the state to show a "compelling interest" why same-sex marriages should not be allowed under the equal protection clause of the Hawaii constitution. The high court ruling was an offshoot of a class action suit filed by three same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses by the state.

In trying to defend the House Judiciary committee's decision to revive the constitutional amendment bill, committee chairman Terrence Tom said that "it's time for the people to decide what the constitution means." Earlier, another version of a domestic partnership bill was killed in the House.

In a worst case scenario, the

legislature could remain in a stalemate, with the Senate favoring domestic partnership and the House insisting on a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage to be submitted for decision by Hawaii's voters.

If the legislative maneuver fails, the same-sex marriage issue will ultimately be decided by Hawaii's courts. In August this year the burden of proof will fall on the state when it argues its case before the Circuit Court. It remains to be seen whether or not the state can come up with a compelling interest to continue to refuse to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

In the meantime, a commission created by the legislature to study domestic partnership for Hawaii surprised the lawmakers last December. The commission recommended, by a vote of 5 to 2, that same-sex marriage be legalized in the state. ▼

Correction: In last week's article on the recusal of Municipal Court Judge Julie Tang from the vandalism trial of AIDS activist Dave Pasquarelli, the B.A.R. erroneously stated that gay Republican Chris Bowman had vacationed with Tang. The comment was made in jest, but reported as fact. The Bay Area Reporter apologizes for the error.

Protease Inhibitors: The Bad News

United Press International

HIV is already ready to fight back against protease inhibitors, according to researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles.

A significant number of people are infected with HIV that is already resistant to the eagerly-awaited new drugs, even though the people have not taken them yet, researchers at the UCLA AIDS Institute said Thursday, February 29.

The scientists had analyzed samples of viral enzymes from 12 infected patients who were never exposed to a protease inhibitor.

One-third of the enzyme samples showed mutations that would let the virus shrug off the onslaught of the new drugs, researchers reported in the journal *Virology*.

Drug resistance has been the recurring nightmare of AIDS patients and doctors, but "what surprised us was the presence of resistant viruses prior to treat-

ment," said Dr. Andrew Kaplan, director of UCLA's Retrovirology Facility.

He and colleagues are trying to create screening tests to see whether a person has a pre-existing resistance to protease inhibitors before starting on the drugs.

Another version of such a test might let a person monitor any developing resistance.

Kaplan said HIV is "like a quick-change artist" in its ability to develop new forms. The UCLA study found that the virus had often developed more than one mutation, a first that let it wiggle partially out of the death grip of the protease inhibitor and a second that brought viral activity back up to normal.

"The critical point in terms of how the virus works is that even if there are only a tiny number of resistant viruses present, once you give the drug, the drug will kill off all the sensitive ones," Kaplan said. "What's left are the resistant ones, which then become 100 percent resistant." ▼

Protease

Continued from page 1

proval of the first protease inhibitor saquinavir, sold as Invirase by Hoffmann-LaRoche. Abbott indicates its product will be shipped by mid-March under the trade name Norvir.

Research indicates this protease formula may have potentially harmful interactions with several common medications.

The list - which includes Xanax, Seldane, and Demerol - includes about two dozen drugs in all. Educational materials for physicians and pharmacists, and packaging material with the drug, will warn that ritonavir should not be taken with these medications.

The advisory panel met March 1 to consider the application of Merck & Co. for indinavir, and also recommended approval of that protease. The FDA

still has to conduct inspection of the manufacturing facility, so final approval is likely to lag a few weeks.

Merck's product will be commercially available under the trade name Crixivan. The drug interacts with rifabutin and ketoconazole, and requires dosage adjustments when used in combination with these medications.

Simultaneously, at the request of AIDS organizations and pharmaceutical companies, President Clinton announced he was asking for \$52 million as a supplemental appropriation to the current fiscal year budget for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP). The program is run by the states as part of the Ryan White CARE Act.

Protease inhibitors cost about \$7,500 a year per patient. A person living with AIDS can easily spend an equal amount on other pharmaceuticals recommended as the first line of defense against the disease. ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Correction:

In the obituary for Duane Dugger in the Feb. 29 issue, his longtime companion's name should have read "Keal" not "Kael" Ausbrooks. The B.A.R. regrets this error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

William Joseph Branton

March 5, 1949 - Feb. 23, 1996

William left this life on February 23 at Coming Home Hospice after a brief bout with lymphoma in his brain. He had lived with HIV and battled its many complications for years.

Born in Hoboken, N.J., William served in the Air Force and lived in Boston before settling in San Francisco in the late '70s. In recent years, he devoted his energy to art: writing poetry, painting and sculpting. His art was a reflection of his abundant spiritual energy. He designed and produced a line of bereavement cards that incorporated his drawings and poetry. He was also fond of baking an exquisite bread that helped to ease the suffering of many members of the Cannabis Buyers Club.

Bill possessed a sharp wit and a gentle soul, and will be remembered by the many friends he found and made in every direction of his path. With divine love, Billy, we bid you farewell.

A date has not been set for Bill's memorial celebration. Friends are asked to contact Richard at 415/775-2909 for information.

Bill wished that any contributions in his memory be given to the AIDS Emergency Fund and/or Visual Aid. ▼



Timothy J. Collins

February 22, 1996

Well-known San Francisco photographer Timothy J. Collins died Feb. 22 at home. Collins, 47, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Surviving are his daughter, Erin Collins; grandson, Kevin, both of Arlington, Va.; and three sisters, Colleen Duffy of Cape Coral, Fla.; Cathy Ellis of Monroe Township, N.J.; and Eileen Alvarez

of Warwick, N.Y.

Private services have already been held. ▼

Eddie Lee

February 28, 1996

Eddie Lee caught his last, biggest wave and rode it home at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28 - the exact time the mind rested and the chartreuse shoes went on display. In the company of Poodles, loving friends, several floating elephants, and a cast of thousands of loyal and obedient admirers, he closed the show in his own tacky display of irreverence, innocence and quirky, comic genius.



Thank you, darling, for your joie de zebra. Aloha. Au revoir. Alright, already! ▼

Frank P. Teramani

Feb. 2, 1947 - Nov. 2, 1995

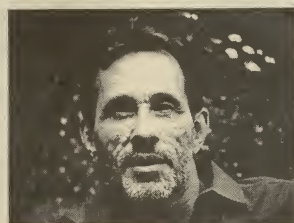
The Dowager Empress has left the stage. The Great Fandancer has folded his fans to join his brothers Nick and Dick and too many other beautiful young men who have died from AIDS.



Multifaceted described Frank, but music was at his core. Music was not just a job but a part of the soul of this former promotion manager for Moby Dick Records. On any dance floor, coast to coast, from the Trocadero to Thunderdome, his magic with fans, once seen, was never forgotten.

Among his relatives, Frank is survived by his loving sister, Debbie, and by his remarkable mother, Antonia, who teaches us, the ones left, about unconditional love and strength.

When we begin the beguine... ▼



CHAS WEDELL

July 12, 1945 - February 29, 1996

A resident of San Francisco since the late '70's, Chas died Thursday evening, February 29, from complications related to AIDS. His struggle was arduous and valiant. But through it all, he never lost the sense of humor that was so deeply woven into his life.

Originally from St. Louis, Chas lived in Los Angeles before coming to San Francisco. Chas was dedicated to his work. He worked for Robert Dern, CPA, later ran his own bookkeeping service, and from 1988 worked for Stadler, Rosenblum & Saris, CPAs until his retirement in 1994. Chas was also the accountant for the Bay Area Reporter. Through the excellence of his work and his integrity, Chas gained the admiration and affection of his peers and clients.

Chas was as dedicated to his friends as he was to his work. A good listener, although he always had plenty to say, his wit could swiftly focus on the core of a matter. Above all, he was there without fail for anyone who needed him, giving selflessly until he could no longer. He will be missed by his many friends.

Chas is survived by his mother, Reithe Jeannette Wesdell. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Wesdell, and his twin sister, Charlene.

Donations may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Bill Delisle

February 27, 1996

Bill Delisle died with three of the people who loved him most at his side: his mother, Dorothy; father, Bud; and partner, Stephen.



Bill was a professional musician who loved to perform. Since leaving Boston's Berklee School of Music in 1982, he spent his career working as a jazz pianist at many well-known

venues in and around San Francisco, including the Inn at the Opera, the Huntington Hotel, the Swallow and the Sonoma Mission Inn.

Bill played from the heart, and people who heard him were struck by the passion and spirit with which he played. In 1986, he won the San Francisco Cabaret Gold Award for best pianist/performer of the year, the career achievement of which he was most proud.

Bill loved to travel. During the last four years, he lived in London; traveled to France, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and Jamaica; and made several journeys within the United States.

Bill had that indefinable quality that made people love him easily and readily. He also had a tremendous capacity to enjoy himself, and a party will be held later in the year to celebrate his life. ▼

George A. "Chris" Cox

Sept. 26, 1939 - Dec. 13, 1995

Chris Cox, 56, left us suddenly on the morning of Dec. 13. Born in



Woburn, Mass., he moved to San Francisco in 1978. He joined the original Imperial Guards in 1981 and in 1986 became one of the founding members of the Golden Gate Guards, as well as their set designer and costume extraordinaire.

During his 17 years in San Francisco, Chris made many contributions to our community, most of them through the Imperial Court system. Who among us will ever forget the 25-foot high castle "camp site" he constructed at the Cycle Runners' Big Basin Run or the marvelous Paris opera house he created in the redwoods of Mendocino for the Guards' "Folsom Phantoms and Fantasies" run - complete with an eight-foot high chandelier.

Chris will be missed by his friends, Jack, Dick and Marlena; all the members of the Golden Gate Guards; and by Mrs. Dorothy Craig of Alameda, who thought of him as her own son. He is also survived by his brother, Roy; cousins, Vickie and Ray Broderick; niece, Francine; and nephew, David Brewster.

For further information regarding a celebration of Chris' life, please call Jack at 415/431-9475. ▼

Lloyd James Wells

Nov. 30, 1949 - Feb. 3, 1996

Lloyd James Wells of San Francisco died February 3 from AIDS. He was 46.



Affectionately known to his friends as "Granny," Wells was born in Fort Collins, Colo. He graduated with honors from Loveland High School, Loveland, Colo., in 1968. He earned a bachelor's in mathematics with honors from Cornell College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1972. While at Cornell, he was student government president.

Wells taught junior high school mathematics at Saint Francis Academy, Joliet, Ill., from 1972 to 1978 under VISTA, the federal government's domestic Peace Corps program. While in Joliet, he was precinct chairman for George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign.

Lloyd left teaching and went to work for Social Security until his retirement in October 1994. During his tenure with Social Security, Wells moved to Mansfield, Ohio, before moving to San Francisco in 1990.

He is survived by his mother, two sisters and two brothers.

A private memorial service is pending. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to individual charities. ▼

OBITUARIES

Ken Dickmann November 20, 1995

Kenny wore many wonderful hats. His love of film led him to become a performer, writer and critic reviewing films, theater and books. As a publicist he worked for FILMEX, the Los Angeles Olympics, and the best in art and politics.

Just out of the Air Force, Ken discovered the underground artists of San Francisco. From the Beat Generation of North Beach to the Hula Palace and the infamous Cockettes, Isadora Duncan Picnics and Wood Nymph Romps, the Society for Individual Rights and their all-male casts of Broadway hits—Kenny was there riding the wild pony, full of life, especially when he played Little Mary Sunshine.

Unlike Kenny who could dish for days, I'm at a loss to say much more. But he wanted his friends to know that he is resting beneath an ancient Hawaiian temple, the site made famous in the movie *South Pacific* and romanticized as "Bali Hai," where he communes with the spirits. I can hear him now, singing on the shore, "I'm Going to Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair."

He will be greatly missed. ▼

Clifford Songer Feb. 9, 1945 - Feb. 11, 1996

Cliff died just as he wanted, at home and in his sleep. Lynn Blythe, his companion of 13 years, was with him. He died after a long illness. In fact, the people at VNH called him Lazarus because he kept making a comeback.

Cliff enjoyed dancing at Busby's. He was a past member of the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating. He loved horses. He competed in hunter/jumper competitions. He once won first place in a 1978 Chicago competition, while (his words) "stoned out of his gourd."

Born and raised in Chicago, Cliff came to San Francisco in 1979. He was an LVN working with terminally ill patients. He retired from Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco after working for them for eight years.

Cliff is survived by his mother, Lilian Buday; brother, Joey Buday, both of Des Plaines, Illinois; half brother, Tom Songer of Elmont, Texas; and several other half-brothers and sisters who he did not find.

A memorial service was held for Clifford Songer in Chicago on March 2, 1996. A memorial skate is being planned for later this month. For more information call 415/928-1692. ▼

James Kevin Ferrell Aug. 2, 1962 - Jan. 9, 1996

Born and raised in North Carolina, Kevin came to San Francisco in the mid-80s from Atlanta where he had been a club DJ. He loved the popular/dance music, and he soon became the first DJ at Cafe San Marcos. He owned and operated a small record/gift boutique, and was active in the Gay Softball League. He tended bar at several popular saloons, including the Watering Hole, where he retired as assistant manager.

Kevin returned to North Carolina in late 1994 in declining health and was cared for by his loving and devoted sister, Pat Williams. He also leaves his mother, Luci Miller, and sister, Melody Towell, all of North Carolina.

At Kevin's request, his ashes were spread equally in the two places he had loved the most: San Francisco at the Golden Gate and the beaches of Hawaii.

Kevin enjoyed the special wealth of many friends and admirers, who miss his charm; cheerful, smiling greeting; crazy laugh; and that wonderful twinkle in his eyes. We can be grateful that the spirit of this special man is with us forever, as his God, with whom he had become so close, prepares him for his next assignment. ▼

Charles Kenneth Gehrke May 29, 1931 - March 1, 1996

Charlie passed away of cancer, surrounded by his devoted family at Coming Home Hospice. He was the beloved father of Charles, Timothy and Scott; son of Irma and the late Charles P. Gehrke; brother of Ione Pinski and Ileen Schiessl; friend and former husband of Marilyn Gehrke; grandfather of four; and a dear friend to Shelby and Dave Braun and hundreds of others.

Charlie enjoyed a long career at the University of California at Berkeley. For the past 18 years, he was a sometime gardener and a dealer in collectibles, most recently in his own Hayes Valley shop, "Charlie's." He followed a spiritual path as a student and teacher of Eastern philosophy and metaphysical healing. Charlie was proud of 19 years of continuous sobriety in AA.

There will be a memorial celebration at Duggan's Funeral Service, 3434 17th Street, San Francisco, on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. No flowers, please, but donations to the American Cancer Society, Coming Home Hospice or the charity of your choice.

Om Namah Shivaya, Charlie. ▼

Candice "Candy" Hepler March 16, 1945 - Jan. 9, 1996

Candice "Candy" Hepler was born in Long Beach, Calif., and died in Las Vegas, Nev., on January 9 after a six-year fight with cancer. She lived in San Francisco on and off for over two decades and was a longtime member of "Maud's Family." Candice served on the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Parade Float March Committee for several years and was a tireless volunteer for Gay Games I. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, she found sobriety. She was a member of NOW, Gay and Lesbian Pride, and died a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Candice is survived by her partner, Mickey Carson; father, William Hepler, stepmother, Phyllis; aunt, Pat; cousins, June, Patricia, Charmaine, John and Suzette; and their families.

There will be a memorial service at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on March 17, where a tree will be planted in her honor. Friends are asked to meet at the Twin Peaks Bar at 1 p.m. prior to the service. Her partner Mickey and close friends Charles and Fritz will be in attendance. For information please call Cheryl Brousseau at 510/253-0667 or Sandra May at 415/826-9470. ▼

Steven T. Young Jan. 17, 1959 - Jan. 31, 1996

Just days after his 37th birthday in Quemerville, Calif., Steve passed away peacefully in the presence of loved ones. His final days were spent at home, according to his wishes.

Steve's love of games, especially volleyball and Trivial Pursuit, earned him the nickname "Gameboy." He was also an excellent pool player and an avid golfer. He spent many summers hiking and backpacking, especially in Yosemite.

Steve traveled often, crisscrossing the country, spending time in over 40 states in search of new adventures. One such adventure, combining his expertise in astronomy with a high-powered telescope, enabled him to become The Traveling Astronomer. Setting up his telescope in supermarket parking lots across the Western U.S., Steve gave thousands of people a rare glimpse of the stars and planets. He was a true entrepreneur.

Steve leaves behind many who loved him, including Jeanette, Russell, Lisa, Lorna, Ruth, Tracy, Jean, Christopher, Thom, Tami and Tom. Everyone he befriended will remember his boundless energy and sense of adventure.

I'll miss you, Booby, through your eyes, I saw the world, and I'll always cherish you for that. Now you can truly explore the stars.

At Steve's request, there will be no memorial service. ▼



William A. (Mr. Bill) Ireton

February 12, 1947 - February 27, 1996

We Love You
We'll Always Miss You
Family And Friends of Bill



Brent Alden Karels

1958 - 1996

Brent died peacefully at home Wednesday February 28, 1996. He was happily beginning to build a new life in Seattle with his life partner, Dean Knudtson after spending 12 years in San Francisco. He struggled with the ups and downs of AIDS for a number of years, until

very suddenly was diagnosed with untreatable P.M.L.

Brent was born April 21, 1958 in St. Peter, Minnesota, and was raised in nearby Le Sueur. He attended St. Olaf University, and graduated from the University of Minnesota. He worked as a costumer with the National Theater, London, The Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, A.C.T., San Francisco and the San Francisco Opera. He also worked on numerous films and television projects filmed in San Francisco, specifically, the program "Midnight Caller." He was an avid Genealogist and Historian.

Brent was preceded in death by his 8-year partner, Harrison Pierce in May 1993 and his mother, Viola in August 1995. He is survived by his father Albert, 5 brothers: Bruce of Renton, Washington, Randy, Bryan, Wesley and Eric, all of Minnesota, 3 sisters: Wendy Bradley of Napa, California, Karen Karels and Nanette Casey of Minnesota. Brent is also survived by 15 nephews and nieces, including 2 special nephews, Jason Kenneth Karels (Godson), and Ian Pierce Karels. Many dear and close friends include: Kelly Hill, David Powers and Geoffrey Craig of San Francisco, CA, Barbara Kassal of Oakland, CA, Douglas Couture of New York, NY, Carrie Maloney of St. Paul, MN, Malcolm Preskett of London, England, Michelle Souza of Los Angeles, CA, Roger & Delmar Gordy of Portland, OR, and Jay Stoutner of Seattle, WA.

We want to say thank you for the loving care of Mark Illeman, F.N.P. at The Conant Medical Group in San Francisco as well as Dr. Jeffrey Olliffe in Seattle. We also want to say a special thank you to Nancy Wadington of Swedish Home Health & Hospice of Seattle.

A Memorial Service is being planned in Seattle and will be announced shortly. At Brent's request, please make donations to the AIDS charity of your choice in his name.

BAY AREA REPORTER

25 Years of Community Service



Craig E. Rody

12/30/48 to 2/17/96

Craig E. Rody beloved partner of Craig Halvart for 15 years, son of Don & June Rody of Medford, Oregon. He worked at Kimo's Bar for over 16 years and owned a gift & card shop, "Just Friends," for a number of years.

As per Craig's request there will be no services, but Kimo will be planting a tree and spreading some of his ashes at the AIDS Memorial Grove. His name will also be inscribed in the "Circle of Friends" at the Grove. Friends will be notified of the date. Contributions to the AIDS Memorial Grove in his name would be appreciated.

He will be remembered and missed by many.

The AIDS Memorial Grove
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the ABC NIGHTLY NEWS
with Tom Brokaw

The Long-Running Neglect Story of PML

by Rob Sabados
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) is one of the many opportunistic infections (OI) that maim and kill people with AIDS. In the past year, an effective diagnostic test has been developed. Unfortunately for those diagnosed with PML, research has been so slow that *AIDS Treatment News* described PML as "probably the longest-running ne-

glect story of the AIDS epidemic. There are no convincing treatments for it and no convincing research organized to change it."

PML derives its name from the fact that it worsens (progressive), that it occurs simultaneously in multiple locations near blood vessels (multifocal), and that it attacks the white matter (leuko) of the brain (encephalopathy). Common symptoms include weakness, seizures, difficulty with speech and coordination, and changes in behavior and awareness. While PML is generally fatal, about ten percent

of patients with PML, usually those with CD4 counts over 200, stabilize or improve. A 1995 Canadian study found an average survival time of 9.4 months for those with greater than 90 CD4 count and 3.6 months for those with less.

Researchers believe that PML is caused by the JC virus (JCV). JCV belongs to a family of pathogenic viruses called papova viruses. This family includes other pathogenic viruses such as human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes warts and has been linked to anal and cervical cancer. Multiple studies have determined that 70-90 percent of healthy adults, regardless of location or risk category, are infected with JCV. Despite this, PML occurs more frequently in women than men.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PML went from being the cause of death for 0.8 percent of PWAs in 1988 to 1.9 percent in 1992. PML also affects other people who are immunocompromised, such as organ recipients and people with cancer, particularly leukemia. The true incidence of PML is unknown, since people with PML are often misdiagnosed with and treated for more common opportunistic infections such as toxoplasmosis and cryptococcal meningitis. To further complicate the picture, many of the first "PML" cases were successfully treated with antibiotics, such as Bactrim (Septra, TMP/SMX), sulfadiazine, or pyrimethamine, suggesting that other opportunistic infections were responsible for the symptoms. Similarly, other viruses such as HIV and CMV can

cause PML-like symptoms that respond to antiviral drugs, such as acyclovir. PML can also occur at the same time as other OIs, further complicating the diagnosis, as a definitive diagnosis of toxoplasmosis, for example, will discourage physicians from testing for PML, and vice versa.

They Can Find ...

Currently, the diagnosis of PML is made based upon brain biopsy and radiological findings. During a brain biopsy, a neurosurgeon removes a small piece of brain tissue so that it can be stained and examined under a microscope. Unfortunately, as many as 60 percent of brain biopsies yield inconclusive results, due to technical factors and the possibility that the small fraction of tissue removed doesn't contain the source of the problem. Understandably, both patients and physicians are often reluctant to utilize this highly invasive procedure. Still, studies such as ACTG 243, discussed below, require that patients undergo this procedure to confirm the diagnosis.

An alternative method of diagnosis is the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scanning. Of these two technologies, MRI seems to be the more effective, and can often be used to differentiate between PML, multiple sclerosis, toxoplasmosis, and lymphoma. And these tests can be inconclusive, especially in people with a history of neurological problems or other OIs, requiring the patient to undergo a brain biopsy.

... With A New Test ...

When evaluating a patient's neurological problem, physicians generally order a spinal tap (lumbar puncture) to obtain cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). While CSF cultures and microscopic examination can help rule out certain infections, they cannot detect PML.

Using the same PCR technology used to measure HIV viral load, researchers have been able to diagnose PML by measuring JCV levels in CSF collected as part of routine evaluations. Overcoming the problems with sensitivity that plagued early PCR tests, researchers, including Dr. Dawn McGuire at UCSF, were able to accurately diagnose 92 percent of patients with PML, including 100 percent of those whose diagnosis was confirmed by biopsy. When CSF samples from patients who did not have PML were analyzed, the test was correct on 92 percent of samples. Those patients testing false-positive for PML all had risk factors such as HIV, chronic leukemia, or neurological deficits, and may be at risk for future PML.

Although it is not currently licensed, physicians have reported using this test for patients with symptoms suggestive of PML for whom a definitive diagnosis could not be made.

As spinal taps are decidedly unpleasant, and can cause complications such as severe headaches,

researchers are continuing to look for alternatives. A new test, presented at the Third Conference on Human Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in January 1996, uses blood instead of CSF. Using this test, researchers found JC virus can, at times, be found at high levels in the blood. While JCV levels were higher in people with advanced HIV infection, JCV levels were independent of CD4 count. If PML is caused by reactivated virus being carried to the brain by blood, and not by JCV reactivating in the brain, JC virus screening may become as routine as CBCs and CD4 counts.

... But They Can't Treat

At present, the only treatments available or even being widely studied are high-dose AZT (zidovudine, Retrovir) and Ara-C (Cytosine arabinoside, cytarabine). The role and efficacy of these two drugs is unclear, as numerous small studies have yielded conflicting results. In San Francisco, the one and only PML-related clinical trial compares patients taking an antiretroviral to patients taking an antiretroviral and receiving Ara-C either intravenously or intrathecally. The intrathecal injection group has a small pump surgically attached to the base of the skull so that the Ara-C can be injected directly into the brain. This study, ACTG 243, excludes anyone who has used an antiretroviral other than AZT, ddI, or ddC.

As with many OIs for which no effective treatment exists, much of the literature consists of "medicine by anecdote." Many people with PML have claimed that drugs such as acyclovir, n-acetyl cysteine (NAC), peptide T; immunosystem stimulators such as alpha interferon and beta interferon; and immunosuppressants such as dexamethasone and prednisone were able to improve their condition. Unfortunately, there have been no systematic studies of these agents.

Several neglected drugs may have efficacy in treating PML. For example, topotecan, owned by SmithKline Beecham, has shown in vitro efficacy against JCV. In response to pressure from ACT UP/New York and New York's PWA Health Group, topotecan's role as a chemotherapy and antiviral drug is being explored. According to the New-York based PWA Health Group, Pharmacia & Upjohn has studied two related drugs, CPT-11 and SN-38, and made them available on a compassionate use basis. ▼

For more information about these drugs, including importing them for personal use, call PWA Health Group at (212)255-0520; ask for Notes from the Underground #29. For more information about topotecan, contact SmithKline Beecham's Sharyn Arnold at (215)741-7074 (voice) or (215)751-7655 (fax). Pharmacia & Upjohn, based in Kalamazoo MI, can be reached at (616)323-4000.



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Action Update

Putting the In in Invirase

Hoffman-La Roche has two toll-free numbers to obtain information and access to its protease inhibitor Invirase (saquinavir mesylate). The numbers are 1-800-910-4687 for questions/answers and 1-800-282-7780 for access information. Community treatment advocates have been told that no one will be denied access to saquinavir, and that the sponsor, Roche, will provide drug until an alternate reimbursor is identified.

If you are experiencing difficulties in accessing saquinavir even after calling the Roche access line, please call Project Inform's Treatment Hotline at (415) 558-9051 (local), or 1-800-822-7422 (national).

ACT UP/Golden Gate has regular Treatment Issues meetings every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and General Body meetings every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 592b Castro Street. ACT UP/Golden Gate is not affiliated with ACT UP/San Francisco. ▼



Photo: Carolyn Cole

Express yourself with help from the Tamalpa Institute (see below).

DNCB, Protease Discussions Planned

by Hakeem Oseni II

ACT UP/San Francisco's DNCB Treatment Group offers interested people information tonight (Thursday, March 7) about the immune system, CD8s, and how the inexpensive, non-toxic chemical DNCB can strengthen cellular immune response in the battle against HIV.

DNCB (dinitrochlorobenzene) is a potent topical contact sensitizer that, according to its fans, boosts the cellular immune response with regular applications painted on the skin. The treatment results in increased numbers of CD8 cytotoxic T lymphocytes and natural killer cells, they say.

Virtually all opportunistic infections in AIDS are of an intercellular nature and can only be controlled by a cellular immune response, according to ACT UP/SF's press release. Studies of long-term nonprogressors have demonstrated that people on DNCB regimens have strong cellular immune responses, with high levels of these protective cells.

The discussion will focus on DNCB as an inexpensive, non-toxic alternative to AIDS therapies that compromise the immune system's cellular response.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Gazebo Room at Davies Medical Center, located at 445 Castro Street. For more information call (415) 954-8896.

Protease Inhibitors

A HIV/AIDS Patient Education Seminar on "Protease Inhibitors, Prophylaxis, and PCR" will be held next Tuesday, March 12 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 1187 Franklin Street.

The latest information on opportunistic infections, viral resistance, viral load tests and its implications, and new antiretroviral agents will be presented. Medical speakers include James Kahn, Mark Holodniy, John Stansell, and Paul Volberding.

Admission is free, and all attendees will receive a boxed dinner.

Please call 1-800-631-9287 for registration. Seating is limited.

Talk About AIDS for SFAF

More than 90,000 people each year call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation trilingual AIDS hot-

line to request information about HIV/AIDS, testing, safer sex, treatment, emotional support, and referrals to other service organizations. Now SFAF is putting out its own call, for volunteers to help answer the phones and questions.

Training takes place over two consecutive weekends. People who speak Spanish, Filipino, and English are encouraged to apply, if they can make a commitment of three hours a week for six months.

Trilingual AIDS hotline training will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 13, 14, 20, and 21 (all four days) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. To reserve a space, or if you have any questions, call the volunteer services information line at (415) 487-8080.

Positive Motion

The Tamalpa Institute is starting Positive Motion, a creative support group for HIV-positive and -negative men living in the AIDS epidemic, with a focus on the expression of feelings and attitudes through movement.

The Life/Art process, developed by Tamalpa Institute co-founder Anna Halprin, offers basic but effective ways to connect and reintegrate the body, mind, and spirit through movement/dance, bodywork, and rituals.

"What makes this work healing is tapping into the wisdom of our body, and being witnessed by others as we creatively express our life experience," says Tamalpa Institute graduate Rick Lepore, who will lead the group.

Registration is \$60-\$120, and the six-week series - from Thursday, March 21 through May 5, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. - will be held at 848 Divisadero Street. For more information, call the Tamalpa Institute at (415) 461-9479.

Art From The Heart

Art is a healing expression for many people with HIV and AIDS. Dolores Street Community Services in collaboration with Shanti bring "Art From The Heart," a showcase of artwork by people living with HIV and AIDS.

The artists' works will be shown at DSCS, located at 938 Valencia Street, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 15. All are invited to the free reception, where hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. The exhibition will be up through April, and several of the pieces are for sale. ▼

Currently Enrolling Study of 1592U89

1592U89 is an experimental drug which, in laboratory tests and preliminary results from this study, has shown good effect in reducing the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load) and in increasing CD4+ cell counts.

Eligibility Requirements:

[HIV-positive, CD4+ count 200-500]

[13 years of age or older]

[Less than 12 weeks of prior treatment with AZT, no other antiretroviral or protease inhibitor treatment.]

[No history of or current AIDS-defining conditions]

Treatment lasts 12 weeks (4 weeks on 1592U89 alone followed by 8 weeks on 1592U89 + Retrovir or placebo). There are 10 visits in all; 3 are all-day visits. All study drug, lab tests and medical exams are provided free of charge.

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What Went Wrong

by Michael C. Botkin

Recently I got a phone call from my first-ever boyfriend. I didn't answer it, and don't plan to. I'm not certain what went wrong, or when exactly it happened, but I am sure that talking with him won't change anything. He's completely bonkers. For some time I assumed that this was because he'd never "come out" as gay, but more recently I've begun to realize that the reason he was never able to come out was because he was bonkers.

When we met and started dating back in high school — me a junior and him a sophomore — he was widely regarded as a brilliant and promising youth. He was fluent in Latin and Greek (this was a fancy, private high school) and had a prodigious memory. He was capable of incredible physical feats, and by the way, he was stunningly handsome. It was acknowledged that he was weird or separate in some way, but this was accepted as part of the package in that rarefied environment.

I can't remember now how we finally started having sex. But once we did, it was pretty constant. Only it was entirely one-sided, with me sucking him off. I was perfectly happy to do so and never particularly questioned his refusal to do me. But it was an early warning, albeit one I was far too naive to take.

Our most intense year was my first one of college. I went to a local school, so I could stay near him, and spent virtually all my time with him instead of at my

school. As a result, I flunked out, and then he went away to college at Oberlin.

I was heartbroken — I'd hoped he'd stay around — and particularly distressed when he got a girlfriend. But he declared himself officially "bisexual" and we still got it on whenever he was back home. He had a girlfriend and a boyfriend, as properly befits a bisexual.

Right around this time, I finally "came out." This was three years after we'd started dating, so it might seem a little slow on my part. But it took me a long time to get over all the obstacles to abandoning my presumed heterosexuality or even to give up the defense of "bisexuality."

Once I had done it, though, it seemed a marvelous answer, and I hoped that David would join me. I got my second warning; he was saddened because this now meant we were different from each other.

But we continued to see each other and to have sex occasionally. Of course, I was now having sex, far more satisfying sex, with many others as well, so I didn't cherish these rare reunions as much as he did.

Warning signs

It was around this time that

David began to lose some of his early gilded charm. He didn't do real well at Oberlin, although that school's policy of simply not giving grades less than a "C" limited the damage. And after graduation he simply didn't have any drive or direction. He got a couple of cushy jobs in the state bureaucracy that could have led to comfortable sinecures — his father was a prominent judge and his step-

you have slept with that?" he asked. It took the sworn testimony of a friend who'd known David back in the old days to convince Steve that David had once been an Oak Street Beach lifeguard — and one of the hotter members of that ultra-hot assortment of youth.

Even so, David had trouble accepting this final break. He came to stay with me and, despite being assigned a bedroom in the attic, always started out by sleeping in my bed — only to be routed out by me, and Steve. The day he was supposed to leave he managed to avoid it by getting his car stolen. He'd left the keys sitting in it. This was another warning sign.

In fact, the warning signs were now flowing thick and fast. He was unable to secure any decent job and didn't seem to care about it. His stepmom, seeing trouble, got him into business school. This moved his game to a new level, but didn't change the outcome.

Multiple personalities

In business school he developed a taste for S&M, with women. Only by tying them up, or being tied up by them, could he tolerate sex with women. And he seemed to constantly have gay roommates, although he often claimed not to have realized they were gay when he got them. And somehow I figured out that he was getting sucked off by other guys every now and then, but always in a way that made it clear that he, David, wasn't gay.

Given his constant glomming on to guys but his insistence that he was straight — the bisexual label had been dropped years ago — I assumed that most of his problems resulted from his inability to come out. He was a perfect example, I figured, of the insanity that develops when a queer stays in the closet.

And that may yet prove right, but I realize now that it wasn't

much of an explanation. Sure, there were barriers to his coming out; there are for anyone. The fact that he couldn't overcome them was a far greater sign of poor mental health.

After getting his business degree, he completely fell apart. He was unable to get a job and drifted eventually to a small town in Michigan, not too far from Ann Arbor, where one of his younger brothers was going to college. His family, I suspect, paid him a monthly sum for staying out of Chicago, since he wouldn't do anything so crass as taking public money. He also developed his identity as a "multiple personality disorder."

He'd discovered that he had eight personalities (the one I was familiar with was "Davy") and constantly held conferences between them to try and sort things out. He excitedly told me about this, expecting my professional support as I was, at that time, a psychotherapist. However, it was because of my familiarity with psychology that I knew that he wasn't an MPD; genuine MPDs are often unaware of the fact that they have more than one persona, and don't hold "conferences" because only one persona can be present at a time.

None of this slowed down David, who started working the local lecture circuit as a harbinger of "multiplism." I occasionally think about some backwoods clinic in Michigan listening to demented David's ravings about "multiplism" and shudder. Talking to him even briefly on the phone became awkward and painful. I stopped picking it up when he called. He calls less and less now.

I still feel guilty about cutting him off, but I couldn't see any way around it. It's been so long since anything I consider genuine communication has passed between us that I've given up hope. It seems to me now that he was always wounded, always incapable of truly hooking up with anyone, and this in fact is what made it impossible for him to come out. But I don't know, and I don't know any way to find out for sure. All I do know is that something, somewhere, went wrong. ▼

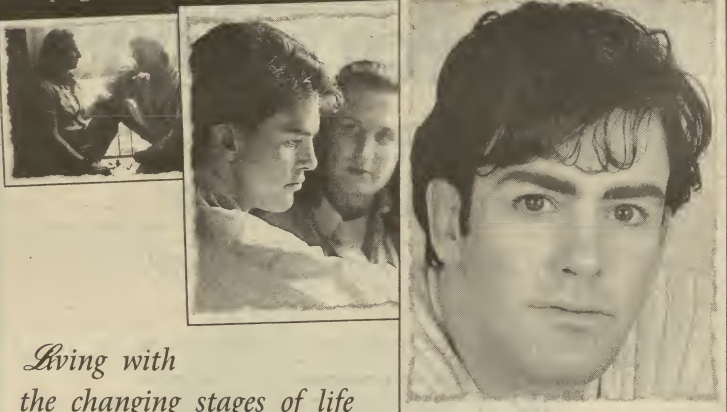
"Sure, there were barriers to his coming out; there are for anyone. The fact that he couldn't overcome them was a far greater sign of poor mental health."

mother a mover and shaker on the local scene — but never quite took them far enough.

As I wandered through my undergraduate days (my three junior years were very personally enriching), his decline became more apparent. His beauty slipped away; he grew a potbelly and sported a Robert Bork beard. I finally stopped having sex with him, which had pretty much degenerated to mercy sex on my part, after I hooked up with my current partner, Steve.

Steve, by the way, was horrified to see my ex. "How could

Coping with AIDS?...



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Sex Abuse

Continued from page 1

derlain last August. He remains disabled, walks with a cane, and faces two additional operations.

Roberts had climbed onto the ledge of the residential hotel in an effort to enter his room after he had locked himself out. Roberts, who moved here with his lover from Waco, Texas, had lived in San Francisco less than two weeks prior to the injury.

Shortly after he was sent to Laguna Honda Hospital to recuperate — physically immobilized with casts and a hip brace — Roberts began to be harassed by an attendant, identified in the claim only as "Peter," who began asking Roberts about his relationship with his lover and other questions of a personal nature.

"At first I just thought it was 'gay talk,' but it got out of hand later," Roberts told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He would talk about it when no one else was around and say, 'Be quiet,' because he didn't want anyone to know."

According to the damages claim, the employee initiated conversations about his "allegedly big penis" and ask personal questions about Roberts' sex life.

Then, over Roberts' objections, he would announce that he was sexually stimulated, his penis was erect, and he had to "go to the bathroom and jack off."

According to the complaint, the harassment turned into sexual assault in an incident when the employee pulled down his pants and displayed his erect penis, and also pulled down the protesting Roberts' pajama bottoms and fondled his penis.

In other incidents, Robert said the employee would grind his crotch into Roberts' immobile foot and then tell him that he was so excited he had to go and masturbate.

In a final incident involving the employee, Roberts told the *Bay Area Reporter*, after he complained about the abuse to the ward's head nurse, the employee imprisoned him in his room and demanded to know what he had told the supervisor.

"He asked, 'What were you all talking about?' and I told him that I had to tell her everything. He wouldn't let me out of the room. Finally he did. He was worried about losing his job," Roberts told the *B.A.R.*

Roberts told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the employee was dismissed from the facility following the incident. ▼

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

ACT UP Golden Gate: meets Tues., Thurs. nights, 7:30pm at 592 B Castro St. Info: 252-9200.

ACT UP SF: committed to ending the AIDS crisis thru direct action. 1388 Haight St., #218 94177. Info: 522-2907.

Acupuncture: The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA, more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline provides telephone emotional support and crisis counseling. Volunteers needed: training begins soon. 984-1902.

AIDS Memorial Grove: Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 209 or 215.

AIDS Treatment Education Network provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project offers

family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 566-5683.

Bay Positives: provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. On-going support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups for family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT xBOY.

Brothers Network Support Groups: HIV and Recovery, Mondays, 6:30pm, 973 Market, Suite 650. Call for schedule of other groups: 356-8140.

Buddhist AIDS Project provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Clinica Esperanza, the HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Coming out support for lesbians: Fri. mornings, 10:30-12, facilitated by Nathalie Paven, LCSW. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. 626-7000, x. 127.

Coming out support group for men meets Weds., 6-7:30pm at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers: reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Connections is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an

adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics: Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type-1 and Type II diabetics in SF and the East Bay. Info: 865-2933.

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

Extra Positives: Social support group for HIV+ men under 40. Info: 522-9477.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Fight the Right March organizing for April 14 march, volunteers needed. Call the National Organization for Women, 436-9390.

Friends, a new group for gay and bisexual men, meets alternating Tuesdays, 7:30pm at Pride Center, 200 5th St., Santa Rosa. (707) 524-7373.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets first Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks gay-sensitive law students as Law Clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation offers activities for players of all abilities, membership mtgs. monthly. Info: Donna at 282-2453 or e-mail dmckinsf@aol.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic: Testing & treatment by B for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (no-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV and African-American Gay/Bisexual Men support groups every Wed., 6:30-8pm. Brothers Network, 973 Market, Suite 650. 356-8140.

HIV Care offers the latest clinical trials from the AmFAR community-based trial network and private industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group: Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group: Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Discussion Groups: provided by HIV Neuropsych and Counseling Program, free, drop-in. Mon. & Wed., 3:30-5pm thru 12/6. 3700 California, 1st fl., Rm. B. 750-6528.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

INVENTION sponsors support groups for HIV negative men Tues. evenings, 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers 23 and under to be listeners on

the line. No experience necessary. Call Olga by April 1 at 703-6150.

Paradigm: Models for Enhancing Life Near Death, serves the terminal ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Positive Humanists and Friends Club: Focus on self-acceptance, promoting belief in long-term survival. Info: 642-3840.

Positive Living for Us: free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV+. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Positive Resource provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Pride & Prejudice: a welcoming group to queer youth meets every Tues., 6pm, at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., Suite 201. Call Nicole at 565-7681.

Project HOPE offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Inform: HIV/AIDS treatment info hotline, 558-9051; journal, and educational Town Meetings. 800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No waiting list. Call 1-800-551-MEAL.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Sadhana Brothers is a group of gay men students of yoga practices of chanting and meditation, meets twice a month. Call Ed, 647-4388.

SAGA North Ski Club: gay and lesbian alpine ski club. For membership info, call 995-2772.

Send Health and Community Listings to: *Calendar Editor*, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202485

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO LOAN COMPANY, 675 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. Christopher Dwayne Baker, 631 Pointe Pacific Drive #9, Daly City, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE BAKER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 27, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202330

The following person(s) are doing business as TRASH THERAPY, 3415 22nd St. #22, San Francisco, CA 94110. KEVIN C. DEMPSEY, 3415 22nd St. #22, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KEVIN C. DEMPSEY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 20, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202405

The following person(s) are doing business as SUPER BRIGHT LAUNDRY, 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. SAMLEY KHVANN, 340 Eddy St. #501, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 22, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SAMLEY KHVANN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 22, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202414

The following person(s) are doing business as STAYNSTYLE INTERNET ADVERTISING, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. THEODORE WRIGHT, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 23, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed THEODORE WRIGHT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 23, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202222

The following person(s) are doing business as PLANT SAAAB, 45 Dore Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. J.F. SITTON, Inc., A California Corporation, 45 Dore Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed JAY F. SITTON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 06, 1996.

Feb 15, 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202235

The following person(s) are doing business as STATEWIDE TOWING, 298 4th Ave. Suite 424, San Francisco, CA 94118-2468. Stephen P. Smith, 1448 Serra Dr., Pacific, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 15, 1979. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Stephen P. Smith. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 14, 1996.

Feb 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202250

The following person(s) are doing business as NEW ORLEANS BIENNET, 2365 24th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94116. Leva Vinitky, 2365 24th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Leva Vinitky. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 15, 1996.

Feb 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202659

The following person(s) are doing business as BUDGET TOURS & TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL, 4114 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Ernie A. Narciso, 4114 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ERNIE A. NARCISO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 04, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201989

The following person(s) are doing business as PLANNING AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS, 690 Market Street Suite 826, San Francisco, CA 94104. ROBERT LEW, 2235 Alameda Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ROBERT LEW. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 05, 1996.

Feb 15, 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201218

The following person(s) are doing business as RJH GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS, 479 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. RICHARD JOSEPH HOFFMAN, 2407 15th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 09, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed RICHARD J. HOFFMAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 09, 1996.

Feb 15, 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201791

The following person(s) are doing business as TOM'S MOTORCYCLE TOWING, 48 Washington #65, Santa Clara, CA 95050. DAVID M. FINEGOLD, 48 Washington #65, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID M. FINEGOLD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 05, 1996.

Feb 15, 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 201310

The following person(s) are doing business as MORGAN 521 PRODUCTIONS, 138 Hancock Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. BRIAN SULLIVAN, 138 Hancock Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 09, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BRIAN SULLIVAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Jan. 09, 1996.

Feb 15, 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 1996.

RFP #:005-96

The San Francisco Department of Public Health, AIDS Office and the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council are seeking proposals to provide a variety of HIV services. \$769,994 is available for a nine (9) to ten (10) month period, (with an annual amount of \$987,464), for the following services:

Transportation, Alternative/Complementary Therapies, Adaption/Faster Care, Day/Respite (childcare), Vouchers and Tenderloin AIDS Services. All services must be provided to San Francisco residents with HIV who are low income and who are underinsured or uninsured. Applicants must be either non-profit or public agency providers other than the Department of Public Health. For further information about eligibility criteria, minimum qualifications, specific services solicited and funding available in each category, please pick-up a copy of the RFP package from the AIDS office or call 554-9331

Bidder's Conference Date: Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Time: 10:00am & 1:00pm

Place: AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness Avenue, 5th floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202539

The following person(s) are doing business as HOT TIN ROOF, LTD., 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. HOT TIN ROOF, LTD. (CORPORATION/CA), 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 29, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed JOHN F. CARAVANTES/CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 29, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 0193045-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name as SUPER BRIGHT LAUNDRY, at 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on February 02, 1996. Name and address of registrant: VALERY SOKOLOV, 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed: VALERY SOKOLOV. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date February 22, 1996 Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder, by Joanne Hynin.

Feb 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 21, 1996.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES To Whom It May Concern: WHITE, Andrea S. is (are) applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at 2890 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 with an On-Sale Beer & Wine Eating Place license(s).

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
185 Berry Street, Suite 5600
San Francisco, CA 94107

Feb 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 21, 1996.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976276

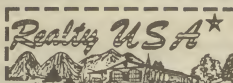
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name. The application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to PAIGE SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 4th day of April, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 23rd day of February, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976377

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROSE MARIE MORGAN for change of name. The application of ROSE MARIE MORGAN for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROSE MARIE MORGAN has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to LEON ALLEN MORTENSEN. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 10th day of April, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 28th day of February, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.



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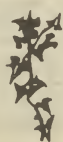
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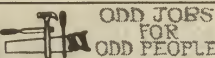
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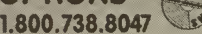


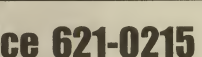
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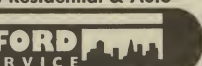
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TONY THE TERMINATOR

SUCCESS HASN'T
SOFTENED
TONY KUSHNER'S
MESSAGE TO
THE WORLD

by Chad Jones

Tony Kushner wreaks glorious havoc on stages all around the world. His two-part epic *Angels In America* not only won every conceivable award including multiple Tony awards and a Pulitzer Prize but also brought the fate of man, the void of heaven, the miasmic twist of American history and the plight of those snared in the AIDS epidemic into sharp, endearingly overwrought focus on stages from here to Australia and back. Kushner's incisive, seven-hour glimpse into the political maelstrom and the damaged, resilient human heart catapulted him to the forefront of American theater.

A defiantly out gay artist, Kushner has spent the last several years, the post-*Angels* years, touring the country, basking in the glow of his show's success, lecturing, writing essays and shedding 85 pounds. The newly svelte Kushner, who will celebrate his 40th birthday this year, also found time to complete an *Angels* screenplay for director Robert Altman (the film version of the play is still in financial and artistic negotiation but stands, Kushner says, a good chance of being made) and dash off a 70-minute play called *Slavs! Thinking About the Long-Standing Problems of Virtue and Happiness*, which had its Bay Area premiere last night at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. This production reunites Kushner with director Tony Taccone, who directed Kushner's first play, *A Bright Room Called Day*, at Berkeley Rep in 1991 and co-directed (with Oskar Eustis) the Los Angeles production of *Angels* two years later.

Not as grand in scope as *Angels* (and composed, in part, of scenes cut from *Perestroika*, the epic's second part), the dark but funny *Slavs!* still manages to call into question the survival of politics and humanity in a multiethnic society in scenes ranging in location from the steps of the Kremlin in 1985 to a mysterious medical facility in Siberia seven years later.

Currently in the midst of completing his next play, the first of a

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VICTIM ART

MARK RAPPAPORT'S 'FROM THE JOURNALS OF JEAN SEBERG'

by Gary Morris

Jean Seberg was always more icon than actress. From her disastrous appearance as the title character in Otto Preminger's *Saint Joan* (1958) to Godard's immortalizing of her in *Breathless*, to her status as fashion maven in the '60s, to her extracurricular work with the Black Panthers, Seberg's acting career seemed from the very beginning secondary to her cultural presence. Her transition from prestige pictures like *Bonjour Tristesse* to Eurotrash epics like husband Romain Gary's *Birds in Peru* and empty-headed blockbusters like *Airport* did nothing to alter the public perception of Seberg as a beautiful, troubled "empty vessel" into which various men or male organiza-

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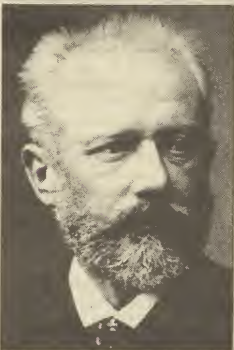
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OUT THERE

by Rex Wrong, Ludovicus Vives and Saul Bracht

Author Anthony Holden has just published a hefty tome on gay Russian composer Tchaikovsky (*Tchaikovsky: A Biography*; Random House, \$35) that attempts to link the composer's homosexuality with his life and music. Drawing upon previously unrevealed material gathered from the Tchaikovsky archives in Klin—files that have only become available to the public since the demise of the Soviet Union—Holden documents the great lengths taken by the composer, the Russian government, and his own family, in particular his brother Modest, to conceal Tchaikovsky's homosexuality. Holden asserts it was the composer's fear of imminent exposure of his sexuality that led Tchaikovsky to take his own life in 1893.



Tchaikovsky

Holden attributes the much-disputed suicide to a life of "tortured anxiety in which the composer made every attempt to hide his homosexuality and promiscuity from everyone but his closest friends and family." He even remained in a miserable hoax of a marriage to further the charade. Holden writes that it's a "grim irony" that the same torments that "bequeathed us so much great music may have also brought Tchaikovsky's life to a premature end."

A little bird marooned in the filthy oil slick that is Hollywood told us this week that studio execs in La La Land are positively wrecked over all the negative feedback they've been getting on AIDS tearjerker *It's My Party*. Said bird reported that "body language reports" compiled on press screening audiences in SF indicated viewers were visibly uncomfortable throughout the film and that "people were laughing at things not meant to be funny."

The *Oily Avian One* also said downturned thumbs have sent studio execs into major spin control and that they're now falling all over themselves in an effort to convince investors that gay audiences in SF are an "isolated case." Execs remain hopeful that the rest of the country will respond to the film as folks did at last week's Berlin Film Fest, where, according to roving film critic Brandy "Abstrusia" Judell, *It's My Party* got the "biggest ovation of any film in the festival."

Speaking of the Berlin fest, Brandy reported that this year's, which featured at least 25 feature-length flicks by or about gays or lesbians, was the queerest ever. Brandy's favorite homo pic was the Bruce La Bruce vehicle *Hustler White*, a tawdry romantic comedy about hustlers in Santa Monica. Brandy didn't want to give away telling details, but she did say there's a great scene in which some guy



Sylvia Miles and Joe Dallesandro in Paul Morrissey's *Heat*.

gets fucked by an amputee. The film, which stars Tony Ward, should be coming our way soon.

Another Berlin favorite was Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman*, which picked up top honors for best gay and lesbian film. Brandy reports it's very original, despite five minutes of Camille Paglia doing her pagan-throughout-art-history routine, the same thing she did in *Monika Treut's Female Misbehavior* a few years ago. Yawn. Last year's *Frisk* was also shown. Brandy said the audience was "very quiet" throughout the screening, which certain parties close to the film mistakenly interpreted as a sign of interest. The film wasn't nominated for a single prize.

Before Brandy went off to Berlin she interviewed director John Schlesinger at the Montreal Film Festival. Hollywood's biggest queen bee (*Midnight Cowboy*, *Darling*, *Marathon Man*, *Billy Liar*, *Falcon and the Snowman*,) talked at length about his forthcoming film, *Cold Comfort Farm*, a comedy based on the British classic by Stella Gibbons.

He also discussed his 28-year relationship with his lover and what it's like being gay in the industry. Brandy says the director has very strong opinions about outing. "I think it's fascist. My only obligation is to my art. I hate this business of forcing people to come out."

Turn Up the *Heat*: You probably thought Marcia Huestis would never be able to top last November's stomach-turning voyage aboard the ill-fated S.S. Poseidon, but we've learned not to underestimate Hostess Huestis. She is the one to thank, after all, for the unforgettable image of a zombified Carol Lynley weaving up and down the aisles of the Castro Theatre in near darkness, an image of existential proportions we at Out There shall never forget. Now, Marcia and her cohort in crime, Lawrence Hellman, have planned yet another Castro Theatre spectacular: on May 17, as a kick-off for the Castro's week-long Paul Morrissey tribute, Huestis and Hellman will present an onstage interview between Tom Ammiano and legendary actress Sylvia Miles, star of Morris-

sey's notorious 1971 flick *Heat*. A screening of the film will follow the interview.

A two-time Oscar nominee, Miles will discuss her exciting career in pictures, which includes roles in such classics as *Midnight Cowboy*, *The Sentinel*, *Farewell My Lovely*, and *Wall Street*, and discuss *Heat*, which also starred gorgeous superstar Joe Dallesandro. There'll be plenty of dish as Miles discusses her life in the movies, her involvement with Andy Warhol and the Factory gang, and her memories of working with sexy Joe.

For the benefit of those who haven't been around long enough to remember the pre-nip-and-tuck Miles, *Heat* is the hysterical retelling of *Sunset Boulevard*, circa 1971. Superhunk Joe (Dallesandro) befriends washed-up, bleached-out actress Sally Todd (Miles), while crazy dyke daughter Jessie (Andrea Feldman) looks on. Missy Huestis says that Miles' onscreen interactions with Feldman "are not to be believed, and buff Dallesandro redefines male beauty."

Lady Hellman met with Miles in New York last week to finalize all the details. The two were supposed to dine at Sardi's, but Miles' sudden aversion to the menu at that swanky Manhattan cookshack resulted in a mad dash to Joe Allen's, where, apparently, the Bouillabaisse is doused with "spirits." It was a memorable lunch, Hellman recalls, as Miles turned heads with her nails-on-chalkboard voice, leopard skin hat and matching coat, endless cigarettes, and seemingly bottomless martinis.

Hellman stresses that Miles is no has-been. She's currently working on a film called *Denise Calls Up*, due out in spring, and this summer she'll fly to France to shoot a flick with another hunky stud, Keanu Reeves.

We recently reported on a soon-to-be released *Kids on the Hall* flick about a drug craze that sweeps the nation when the pathetic masses get hold of a high-powered anti-depressant designed by a psycho scientist. Set for a mid-April release, *Kids in the Hall Brain Candy* stars all five Kids and is directed by veteran Kids director Kelly Makin.

In the film, everybody's favorite kid, Scott Thompson, plays five characters: the Queen;



Photos: Peter Sorel, George Kreychik

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a gay East Indian club kid named Raj; Klemptor, a German supermodel on the run from glamour; Mrs. Hurdicure, a lesbian who looks like Fran Leibovitz; and Wally Trajinski, a closeted gay conservative. Out There spoke with Thompson about the film last week by the phone from Toronto. The conversation devolved quickly into other, filthier matters:

B.A.R. Was it hard convincing the studio to include the homo stuff?

Scott: No, it was very easy actually, although the masturbation scene at the beginning of the film was tricky.

It opens with a masturbation scene?

Yeah, Wally masturbates while looking at gay porn.

What kind of porn? Fisting, S/M?

Oh you know, pictures of Florida Boys of the Year, that sort of thing.

So what kind of fag is Wally?

He's a closet case, kind of like Mr. Wilson from *Dennis the Menace* if he'd been gay.

What was your favorite movie last year?

Clueless. Alicia Silverstone's performance in that film ranks right up there with Audrey Hep-

Continued on page 40

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FILM



Nathan Lane, Hank Azaria, and Robin Williams in Mike Nichols' *The Birdcage*.

Defanged Drag

Sanitized Drag Foils Queens' Revenge in *The Birdcage*

by Gary Morris

Queen alert! Seemingly respectable filmmakers are eagerly repackaging homosexuals as whining, pathetic drag queens for a culture disturbed by plagues and nosering militants. If last year's *To Wong Foo* led the charge, *The Birdcage* delivers the body blow. This is understandable in a sense. Society longs for the pre-AIDS homosexual, who more often than not was a pathetic, caricatured drag queen. Worse yet, there are plenty of "artists" out there who are all too happy to deliver this image.

The Birdcage comes with a pedigree: a big budget; a proven history on film and on Broadway; a well-established liberal director (Mike Nichols) and writer (Elaine May); respected, simpatico actors like Robin Williams, Gene Hackman, Dianne Wiest, and the ubiquitous Nathan Lane; and a script that pointedly pleads for tolerance in our increasingly conservative, homophobic society.

Like its forerunner, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Birdcage* concerns drag club owner Armand (Robin Williams) and lover Albert (Nathan Lane), an *artiste* who entertains at the club. Val (Dan Futterman), Armand's son from a drunken heterosexual tryst, asks his father and Albert to heterosexualize themselves for one night in order to impress his potential father-in-law, right-wing Senator Creeley (Gene Hackman). They initially refuse but eventually comply and transform their apartment, a temple of queerish paintings, statues and kitsch, into a stark monastic space with little more than a huge crucifix and a few chairs.

Compounding the problem is Senator Creeley's scandal: his partner in a right-wing "family values" campaign died in the bed of an underage black prostitute. Suddenly Armand and Albert become doubly useful in their new role as wealthy, old-fashioned hets: Val will be approved as a son-in-law and the senator will turn attention from his scandal with an elaborate wedding. All Armand and Albert will lose are their identities.

Nichols and May have made a few changes from the original. The setting is no longer the South

of France, but South Beach, Florida, giving an "exotic" travelogue feel to the outdoor scenes. *La Cage*'s black "maid" is now a more trendy Guatemalan who says things (in a very heavy accent) like, "You are afraid of my Latin heat." One element that should have been added to the film — it's also missing from the first one — was some sort of physical connection between Armand and Albert. Is a homosexual kiss still too much to ask for in 1996? Yes, if the film is directed to the Dinner Theatre crowd, as is this one. On the other hand, these characters, as played by Williams and Lane, don't even seem to like, much less love, each other.

Tossing out the drag

In *La Cage*, the disturbing undertones of co-optation never quite came to the surface because of the expert performances of Ugo Tognazzi as Armand and Michel Serrault as Albin. What might have been the queer community's *Birth of a Nation* worked in spite of the shrill mechanics of the farce and the cartoonishness of the characters. The actors were attractive and commanding — especially Serrault's enthralling mix of operatic abandon and self-consuming bitchiness. (Remember how Serrault's performance inspired stressed-out queens in 1978?)

While most of *La Cage*'s plot details and some of its dialogue are recycled in *The Birdcage*, the pivotal character of Albin is changed, and the results are disastrous. Nathan Lane's Albert is so relentlessly "humanized" that his mere presence drains the drama of any tension. Nichols commented on Lane's strategy in the press notes: "He made everything about Albert very real. Nathan throws the drag aspect of the character away; it was more about creating a whole person." But this "whole person" is actually woefully incomplete — in "throwing away the drag part" he kills one of the story's major motifs: the sheer power of the character's hysterical personality. In *La Cage*, it was always clear that Albin was contemptuous of the right-wing minister; in *The Birdcage*, however, Albert is so ingratiating to the confused Senator Creeley that he practically drools when in his presence. Albert's unflattering self-descriptions — "freak,"

"monster" — are supposed to be amusing, but are more grim than mirthful.

The central dramatic problem of the original — why two fabulous faggots would agree to pass as straight for a pushy het son and a right-wing politician — is much more problematic in the remake, what with the passing of two decades and the less-than-convincing acting. When *La Cage*'s drag queens banded together to save the right-wing minister from scandal by disguising him in



Nathan Lane as Starina

women's clothes, it seemed a logical end to the farce — retribution for all the nasty things he had said and thought about their lifestyle. In *The Birdcage*, Gene Hackman is not a convincing villain. We never believe his nastiness, and his appearance in drag seems more a temporary physical discomfort than a life-changing experience. But above all, with Nathan Lane's defanged drag, the crucial idea of queenly revenge simply evaporates. The gay characters, led by Armand and Albert, enthusiastically save their oppressors, a depressing act that no amount of spirit gum and wigs can disguise. ▼

***The Birdcage* opens in general release Friday, March 8.**

Making Connections

14th SF Asian American Film Festival Heavy on Queer Flicks

by Gary Morris

This country's elite — right-wing and moderate alike — enjoys the spectacle of marginalized groups fighting over the same small, stale piece of the cultural pie, squabbling over representation of their own imagery. There's a subtle quota system at work in our cultural discourse that minimizes the voices of blacks, gays, Asians, the poor and others. And no wonder: this picture of disenfranchised groups perpetually at war with one another is reassuring to the status quo, for if we continue to fight among ourselves, we'll never be a threat to them.

The Asian-American Film Festival bucks this trend by commingling concerns of gay people and Asians. Out of 110 works in this year's festival, 20 films feature gays either before or behind the camera, resulting in a sort of festival-within-a-festival. And while none of these works reaches the aesthetic heights of Tran Anh Hung's masterful *Cyclo*, they at least cover an engagingly wide range of themes, locales, formats, and stylistic strategies.

Some of these films break new ground simply by showing us previously undisclosed corners of the Asian homosexual universe. Much of the action of Park Jae-Ho's *Broken Branches*, for example, takes place in a South Korean gay bar. The story blends images of the terror of heterosexual family life (an abusive patriarch and three wives) with the at turns pleasurable and frustrating love affair between Jung Min, a 30ish TV director, and an older married man. The bittersweet tone of this film, expressed eloquently in Jung Min's desperate romanticism, is a thread that runs throughout the festival.

From Japan comes perhaps the most successful of the gay features this year, Ryosuke Hasiguchi's understated *Like Grains of Sand*. Hasiguchi works familiar territory in unfamiliar ways in this story of an unrequited gay/straight teenage love triangle, most of which takes place at a high school. In a brilliantly resonant scene shot in a single take, one boy (Ito) tries to seduce another (Yoshida) in an empty classroom. The director manipulates their movements and hesitations to maximum emotional effect.

Also from Japan is a revived classic, Nakamura Genji's 1983 *Beautiful Mystery*. This steamy, satirical, 60-minute feature is

surely the last word on the right-wing military homo cults represented by Yukio Mishima. Two boys, Takizawa and Shinohara, join an ultranationalist paramilitary group whose "master" revels in fantasies of social chaos and coups d'état. Takizawa lectures Shinohara on political theory and the glories of self-sacrifice while playing bondage games and sticking his greased fingers up Shinohara's ass. Even the most sacred events — a stylized mock hari-kiri performed to show what the boys

must do if the coup d'état fails — collapse into orgies. *Beautiful Mystery* was considered so explicit (by Japanese standards) that it initially played gay porn houses.

Explicit sexuality is also featured in *Queer Boys Forever*, four shorts that explore the lives of queer Asian men. Nguyen Tan Hoang's *Forever Jimmy!* mixes lurid porno quotes ("Nicky pressed his swollen cock against Jimmy's manhole!") with cheesy pop video images of fresh-faced

Continued on page 40

The 14th Asian American Film Festival runs March 7-14 at the AMC Kabuki Theatres in San Francisco and at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. The festival opens at the Kabuki with *Cyclo*, Tran Anh Hung's tale of a rickshaw driver and his sister as they plunge into a hellish life of danger, desire and crime in Ho Chi Minh City. For tickets and information, call 255-4800. For on-line catalog updates and schedules information, contact the festival on <http://www.sirius.com/~naata/festival>.



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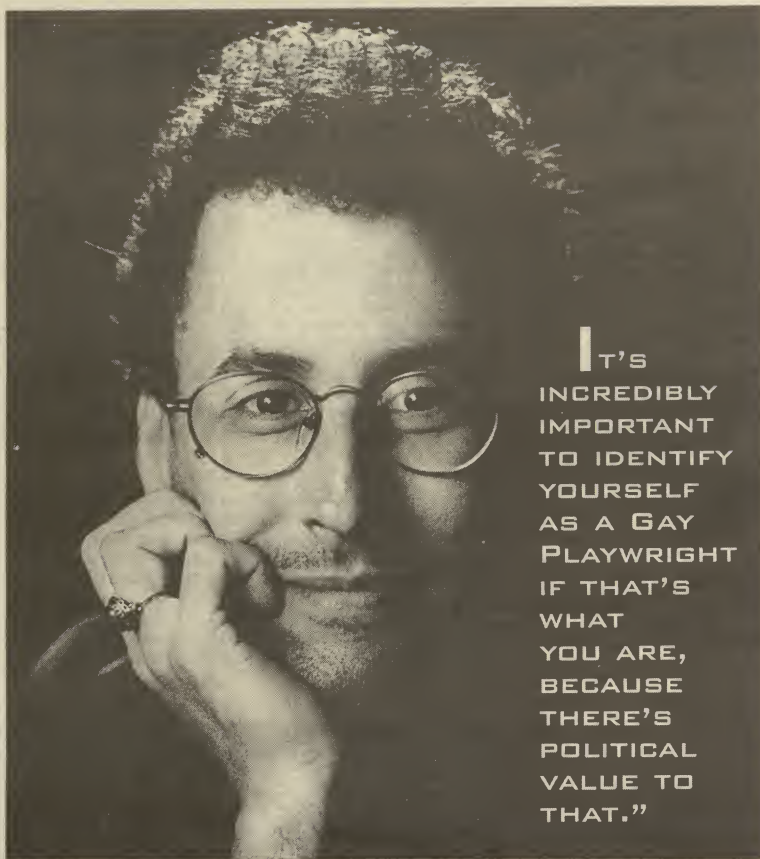
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Tony Kushner

Continued from cover

three-play cycle about money that will premier at London's National Theatre, Kushner found time to talk about *Slavs!*, gay theater and the political scene from his home near Columbia University in New York City.

Chad Jones: Do you feel confined by the label "gay theater"?

Tony Kushner: Not as such, but it's incredibly important to identify yourself as a gay playwright if that's what you are because there is political value to that. *Slavs!*, even though there are two lesbian characters in it, is much more about socialism. It's very different territory in a certain sense than *Angels in America*. People who expect me to write only about being gay are surprised by *Slavs!*. Some people who are *Angels* groupies come to the play expecting more of the same and are surprised — sometimes pleasantly, sometimes not.

Basically, the whole category of gay, homosexual or queer is defined by the oppression that one encounters because of one's sexual preference. Consequently, the very category is a political category and it's more appropriate to talk about a theory of a political or engaged theater rather than a gay theater or a straight theater.

I've become sort of homophobic about plays where there's a lot of gay guys sitting around saying, "It's OK to be gay! I can love, too!" I just want to say, "Die!" I saw the Harvey Milk opera and I wanted to apologize for the entire political movement that made this execrable three hours in the theater possible. It was all a mistake. We should all go back in the closet. We're all cute and adorable. We want to have fun with each other and leave us alone and let us be happy! It was so horrible.

In every single sitcom now there's an episode about funny gay men. We're not menacing threats to Western masculinity anymore. We're house pets. Every nuclear family should have one as

a next door neighbor, just stay away from the kids. It's revolting. Unfortunately, there's a huge section of the gay population that feels all too comfortable with it. They have all these rights and securities that they very mistakenly believe are dependable. But if we don't get these bastards out of Congress, and if the era of big government really is over, we're completely fucked. There's no protection for a minority the size of ours, which is tiny, on a state and local level. That's why Republicans want to kill the federal government. We're doomed. That's when the paychecks start to disappear and so do the adorable gay neighbors on TV.

As a political artist, what role will you take in the presidential election?

I had a weird experience. I went to the White House — I'm not sure if I'm supposed to tell anybody — with Michael Mayer (who directed the national tour of *Angels*) as my date for the National Medal of Arts Honors in October. I had a conversation with Clinton in which I told him he was blowing his support in the lesbian and gay community for not overturning the Colorado amendment and other things. Then I got a phone call in late December from the speech-writing department of the White House asking if I'd like to write a version of the State of the Union address. Clinton was asking a number of people to write their own versions and send them in. So I wrote one and sent it in, though the version he gave was not the version I sent him.

I was told he would actually read it, so I didn't want to be too hostile. The point was not to tell him off but rather to try and remind him that there is still a political left in this country, and whether he realizes it or not, that's what got him elected. He is blowing the support of the progressive 30-40 percent of the American population that comes out of hiding periodically when it gets scared enough and elects a Democratic president. I said if you completely alienate progressive peo-

ple, including lesbians and gay men, you won't win. Whether or not he got that message ... I do know that two weeks after I left the White House he made that ridiculous gesture of supporting the lesbian and gay anti-job discrimination bill, which he was able to do because he knew it had a snowball's chance in hell of making it to the floor. So maybe I had an impact, who knows?

Was your contribution acknowledged in any way?

Yes, I got a personally inscribed copy of his horrendous State of the Union address in the mail. I was going to send it back because I thought that address was the most appalling thing I've heard in about 20 years, well that's not true, but it was appalling, at least coming out of the mouth of a Democrat, especially when he was up there announcing the end of the era of big government. I was going to send it back, but then I thought it might be worth something on the open market.

I hated that State of the Union address worse than poison, but it worked for him. His ratings shot up. I don't even understand it. Announcing that you're going to end the deficit in seven years is like saying you're going to stand on top of the Washington Monument, flap your arms and fly to Virginia. It's a complete impossibility, but it pushed the right buttons. His ratings improved. Go figure. Politics.

Will the rest of the world ever get to see your speech?

It actually wasn't a speech so much as an open letter to him. I thought about publishing it. This is the first time I've talked about it publicly. I thought up till now that I should be discreet. I just hope Clinton comes to his senses in time for the election. I worry what will happen if he tries to run as a Republican. Clinton is who he is surrounded by, and as usual, he is surrounded by a real mix of people. I got to dance with a man at the White House, and as somebody from the Walt Disney Company who was there pointed out

INTERVIEW

when we finished dancing, this could only happen in a Democratic administration.

Earlier you mentioned the phenomenon of Angels In America groupies. Your "reunion" with an Angels director raises Angels-size expectations for the Berkeley Rep production of Slavs!, does it not?

I didn't think this was the case, but I learned while putting up Angels that if people like something, they want, in spite of themselves, to see it again. As different as parts one and two of Angels are, I think there was a certain degree to which people who loved part one came back wanting to see it all over again and had trouble accepting that part two was different. Slavs! is a play that is not about identity politics but about socialism. It's a gay play because it's very much within the framework of my aesthetics and my aesthetics are homosexual. Some audiences have loved it, some not.

When people see the word socialism, they get scared. They don't want to see a play about political ideas. How do you overcome that?

One of the answers may be that you can't. Slavs! has done very well and played all over the place. It's gotten a bumpy critical reception except in New York, London, Vienna and Berlin, but in some of the hinterlands, people have said, "It's not Angels In America," and it's not. My job as a playwright is to make a play about the history of socialism and the theory of socialism entertaining. Hopefully, people who saw Angels believe that I can make things entertaining and will come to see this.

It's critically important at this juncture in history that all people who are concerned with any kind of progressive politics address themselves to questions of economics, because the notion of a political economy is a ground that we've ceded completely to the right, and we have accepted an entirely reactionary definition of what the political economy is. That's even more dangerous than the amount of ground we've given up in terms of morals and cultural values. We stopped being able to think politically about money and that's a terrible thing. Our fortunes as a minority are very much tied into the life of the economy. Progressive politics succeed when there is economic justice. If you say the only thing that should concern us is whether we can hold hands in public, get married and serve in the military, you're foredooming by being shortsighted your whole political movement.

There hasn't yet been a play dealing with poor homosexuals, has there?

Rarely do questions of economic concerns and homosexuality get discussed. Some writers do it. A number of lesbians do. I think Dorothy Allison deals with gender of class as well as gender. Sarah Schulman deals with issues of urban poverty. A lot of African American writers deal with racism and class oppression and sexual preference all together. James Baldwin certainly did. Audre Lorde did. Gay white men have tended to be somewhat oblivious to the question. You don't want to talk about privilege when you're the beneficiary of it because it's hard to look at the extent to which you are a beneficiary of privilege. I think a lot of gay men, white men, are nervous about talking about that.

This is going to become the great divide: whether or not you attach your politics as a homosexual to a larger politics of a larger progressive politics or whether you don't. That's already a dividing line between being a member

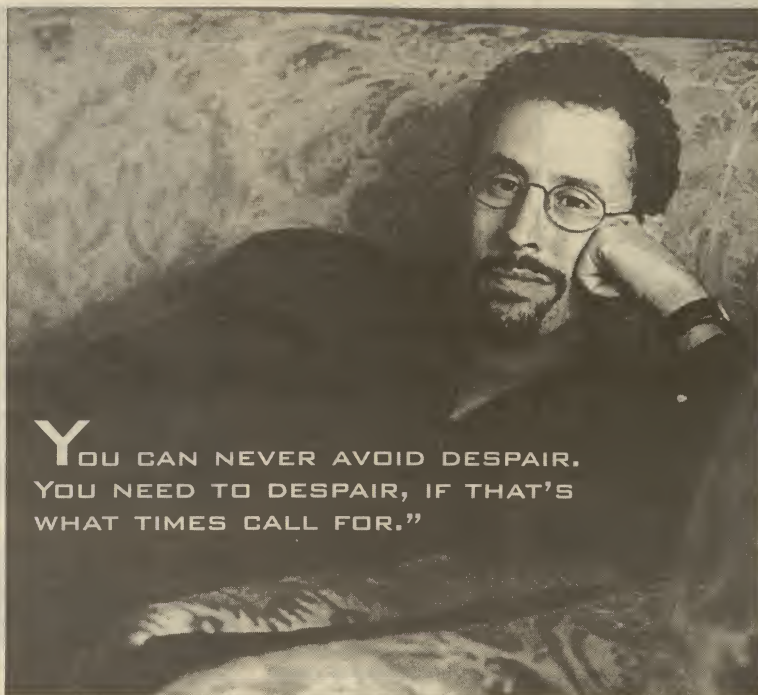


Photo: Ken Nahoun

of the Log Cabin Club and being something a little livelier and more dignified and intelligent.

All the information we get from Slavs! about Russian nuclear waste being improperly stored and radiation-damaged children is true?

It's all, unfortunately, completely true, and it's worse than that. In Siberia, there's a whole group of children born with inherited chromosomal damage, with severe central nervous-system damage. Most of them don't live very long. They're autistic or mute. There's a picture in the Berkeley Rep rehearsal room of a group of children born in the same neighborhood in Moscow who were all born without a left hand. It's completely horrifying. Information like this can bring you more closely to the edge of irretrievable despair than anything I've ever encountered. Not all the political good will in the world — and there's nothing like all the political good will in the world — could effect a real transformation because we've already destroyed parts of the planet. My hope is that people in America listening to this play, which is a very American play about the Soviet Union, will realize that there are similar situations pertaining in the United States. It's very grim.

Now people really aren't going to want to come.

All that and socialism, too! You know, I wrote Angels In America believing that I was writing for an audience as concerned about certain things as I am and that audiences go to the theater because they want to be challenged and they want the truth in as much as the playwright and directors and actors are capable of giving it. One mustn't worry. Not every play is going to have the same appeal. Angels In America had much more appeal than Slavs! will ever have. I believe that the Soviet Union occupies a large space in the imagination of most politically-aware Americans. I think the play has had the success it's had because people, like me, are dreaming about Russia.

How much time do you spend reading each day?

Oh, not enough. I'm trying to spend much more time alone with books and thinking and much less

time walking around blabbing. That's a fatal disease. I have enjoyed it, though. I've been everywhere in the last two years. Some of it I feel I have to do politically because it's payback for the success of the play. It's immensely time consuming and it does something funny to your head. It's important for a playwright to stay confused and uncertain and unclear and drift. What I found is that the more I've had to go

around developing mature, sane opinions, the less the loony part of me, which is where the plays also come from, gets a chance to live. Angels didn't come out of a mature, responsible, considered part of me. It came from the gut.

When you, as a well-read person, discover horrible things in the world like you did before you wrote Slavs!, do you find yourself in, as you put it, "irretrievable de-

spair"? How do you avoid that?

You can never avoid despair. You need to despair, if that's what times call for. I wouldn't want to say that one automatically decides in advance that despair is to be avoided because what if despair is appropriate to the situation? Real despair would produce nothing. You could watch Waiting for Godot or Endgame or even bleaker Beckett and say, well, here's as close as we get to complete despair of human agency as you could ever hope to see, yet it produced these plays, which is proof that the despair is not total. Had it been total, there would have been no writing.

It takes great courage to go into the darkness as deeply as someone like Beckett went and be able to continue to work. It takes great courage and great faith and a great hope because it comes from a non-avoidance of the most ugly truths. There's always a risk that it will swallow you up. I'm no different than anybody else in that respect. We all play that game. Everybody is entitled to mornings when they can't get out of bed. Only vulgar, insensitive people don't have mornings like that. And how nice for them. On the other hand, there never is reason for complete and total despair. The ability of human beings to endure in the most appalling circumstances is on one side glorious and on the other rather repulsive and cockroach-like. We do endure. As long as there's life — to be completely Hallmark greeting card-like — there's some possibility of transformation. ▼

Tony Kushner's Slavs! continues at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre through April 19. Call (510) 845-4700 for information.

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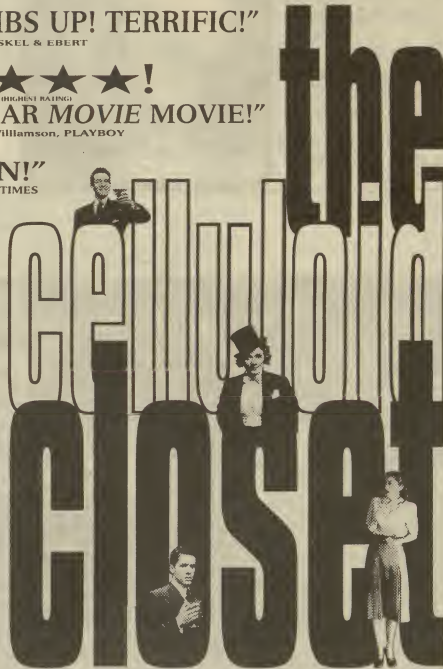


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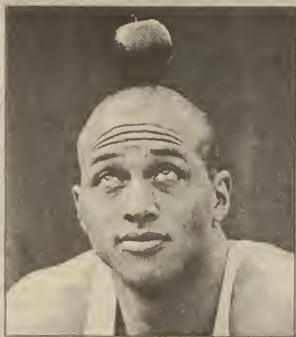
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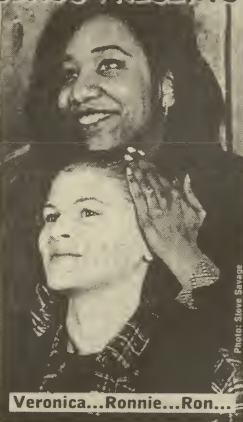
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FILM

Asian Film

Continued from page 37

Asian men. Kirby Hsu's *GOM* comically links food and sex in its autobiographical discussion of potato queens, rice queens, and sticky rice queens. Ming S. Ma's *Slanted Vision*, the longest, most ambitious, and sexiest entry here, offers some startling insights as the narrator deconstructs a porn film, complaining that Asian men are always shown as submissive to whites: "I was irritated by being written out of the narrative."

Documentaries

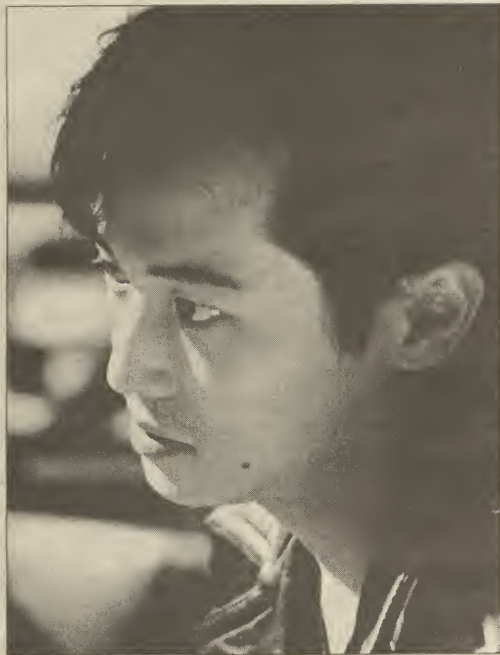
Personal documentaries are a critical tool in reclaiming cultural imagery; the simple act of "speaking up" about one's intimate history can take on an almost revolutionary importance. Such is the case with Hima B.'s *Coming Out, Coming Home*. Here we see straight parents and gay kids talking with unsparing honesty and eloquence about the difficulties and rewards of coming to terms with the reality of gayness in a homophobic society. Rhoda Yee's enthusiastic response to her son coming out to her — "I said, 'Oh, thank God! We won't have this tension anymore!'" — provides a rare, refreshing view of parents and children as allies.

Richard Fung's *Dirty Laundry* is at once more ambitious and less successful. Fung uses impressionistic imagery and the framing device of a train ride to delve into the lives of his Chinese-Canadian ancestors. The power of Fung's historical speculations is undermined by a tired, amateurishly-acted romance between the main character and a train attendant.

High school teacher Sheri Gaulke completes this program with *Out Loud*, nine brief videos by her gay and lesbian students (15 to 23), who describe everything from coming out to gaybashing to a mock wedding ceremony between two riot grrrls in Forest Lawn cemetery. Typical of the droll tone here, one politically ambitious teen wonders, "Could a queer carry North Carolina?"

A program of lesbian shorts — "It Ain't Easy Being Pretty" — mixes straight narratives with experimental modes. Shu Lea Cheang's *Coming Home* repudiates tired conventional views of female beauty by having two middle-aged women cavorting naked in a bathtub. It also manages to satirize the packaging of Asian films for Americans by using fractured subtitles and intentionally bad dubbing.

The standout in this program is Gita Reddy and David Dasherath Kalal's *Hindustan*, a brilliant send-up of 1950's lounge-style exoticism in which a man and woman do a role-reversal lip-synch to the title song. This one will leave you



From Quentin Lee's *Flow*.

humming the preposterous Bing Crosby-Rosemary Clooney tune, "Hindustan ... where we met and the world began. ..."

Experiments, good and bad

Experimental gay cinema is represented by Quentin Lee's *Flow* and Hiroyuki Oki's *Heaven-6-Box*. *Flow* is billed as a feature but is actually an anthology of short films by the alleged "enfant terrible of queer Asian cinema." Lee's imagery is energetic but also self-conscious and often woefully pretentious, as when two people kiss through plastic bags — like condoms, get it? Discontinuous editing and double exposures aside, Lee sometimes drifts into the same navel-gazing territory in-

habited by Wally White and Gregg Araki. His least experimental, most linear work, *Fall 1990*, is also by far his most successful, a moody, sometimes poignant drama of complex relationships among a group of sexually confused college friends.

Hiroyuki Oki is Japan's leading avant-garde filmmaker and a gay artist who was chosen to make a film about Kochi, the town where he lives. In *Heaven-6-Box*, we see footage of local concerts, performance art, lakes and architecture, workers at their jobs, and quiet shots of ordinary citizens posing for his camera. Oki's poetic mixture of the commonplace and the extraordinary is an apt metaphor for a festival that celebrates these same virtues. ▼



Coming Out, Coming Home

Out There

Continued from page 35

burn's in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

Who's the cutest guy you've seen recently in a movie?

Brad Pitt in *Seven*. He is so good-looking it's shocking. You know what's funny is that when they try and make him dirty he's even sexier.

Finally, we were asked this week to stop printing items about

David Bonetti and his "excruciatingly fabulous neckwear," because, says his sickening friend Sonia Krenwinkle, "The stories are just vicious, sick lies." According to Sonia, "The Examiner art critic frequently wears nothing around his neck, or else he sports a simple black tie." Well fuck you, Sonia, because Ms. B. was spotted last week at a celebrity-battered screening of *Celluloid Closet* wearing an elaborate metallic affair around his neck, which, we hear from a reliable source, Ms. B. kept "fluffing and toying with throughout the screening." ▼

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Heartbreak: Pleasant Respite from Gay Theater Blahs

Friendly Fire

by Chad Jones

Resurrecting the dead to settle touchy issues of the past is the central focus of Jack Heifner's play *Heartbreak*, the second installment of the New Conservatory Theatre's "pride season." After the redundant nudity and derivative drudge of the first installment, *Two Boys In Bed on a Cold Winter's Night*, the low-key intelligence and familiar humor of *Heartbreak* provides a gentle, wistful tonic to this city's gay theater blahs.

Best known for his Off-Broadway hit *Vanities*, Heifner says he wrote *Heartbreak* as an act of revenge on a former lover who wrote a tell-all novel about their relationship, and as a way to remember friends who have died of AIDS and with whom he shared difficult friendships. The resulting play is an interesting time warp that four friends take in order to analyze their friendship with Jason, a charismatic yet boorish writer, and to re-live important moments each shared with him before his death from AIDS and the posthumous publication of a book he based on their lives. Much to the friends' dismay, there's more fantasy than fact on the pages of Jason's book, hence the "cosmic" tribunal construct of the play in which the friends attempt to set the record straight and work through the bitter anger and devoted loyalty they still feel for their dead friend.

It's easy to see why the friends — two women, a straight man and a gay man — are attracted to Jason. As portrayed by the handsome Andrew Nance, Jason is all charm and heavy-lidded flirtation at first, but on closer examination, petty, snappy and shallow. The one thing that makes Jason an interesting character is his thorough self-knowledge. When his relationship with Mark (Noah Kelly, in a grounded, honest performance) is heating up, Jason enjoys calling the younger man his "private whore sex toy." But as the romance gets heavier, Jason warns Mark, "You'll learn to hate me." And Mark does. During a heavy-duty Thanksgiving scene, Jason reveals that he's HIV positive, has been for some time and that he has lied about his status. Mark reacts like he's come face-to-face with a murderer, which, to his mind he has, because he and Jason have not been practicing safe sex.

Steady direction

Playwright Heifner's set-up is best utilized in these moments. After the heavy drama of Mark's stormy exit, the focus shifts to the way Jason-as-author depicted the same scene in his book. Jason's character is, of course, the hero of the scene, misunderstood and sensitive, while Mark's character is the nasty one. Just after storming out of the apartment, the Mark character gets hit by a bus and dies. There are lots of interesting reality/fantasy, real-life/novel twists like that throughout the play, though the constant clarification between book and life become tiresome. Heifner underestimates his audience's ability to differentiate between the two.

Director Arturo Catricala succeeds admirably in keeping the world of the past, the present and the novel distinct, and he gets uniformly good performances from

his cast of six. Aside from Nance and Kelly, Rebecca Burliegh as Pamela, a southern belle whose life's ambition is to be a mother, avoids stereotype and finds the heart of Pamela's frustrations. Jordan Viray as Vincent, a straight college friend of Jason's, is saddled with too many penis references ("I love my penis!"), but he, too, overcomes the mundane to find compassion amid the angst. As the romance novel-writing, relationship-avoiding Karen, Gwen Loeb gets lots of laughs for her wry delivery of ultra-cynical *bon mots*, but is not quite able to sidestep the cliché of the tough, funny, overweight bitch protecting her tortured, vulnerable soul. Too many lecherous cackles and not enough shading make Karen more strident than we ultimately need her to be.

The best part of *Heartbreak* is the realistic (in the artificial, dramatic sense, of course) portrayal of an imperfect gay man who has

an imperfect gay lover, imperfect women friends and an imperfect straight friend. Though Heifner's play does belabor its point in the second act, it's refreshing to encounter characters who do not insist on congratulating themselves for being spokespeople for sexual preferences.

The characters in *Heartbreak* are not unlike those on that popular Thursday-night sitcom about six friends living in New York: they laugh, they cry, they sleep together, they fight. The main difference here is that in *Heartbreak* the relationships are messy. The characters aren't overly cute and they don't have designer hair. Oh yeah, and in *Heartbreak* they get sick and die. Just like real life. ▼

Heartbreak continues through March 31 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Call 861-8972 for information.



Jordan Viray and Andrew Nance in *Heartbreak*.

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Julia Adam and Yuri Possokhov in *Maninyas*.

Seyffert, Mahler and SF Ballet Deliver in *Back Home War Games*

by Stephanie von Buchau

If the choreography of the San Francisco Ballet's evening of world premieres, unveiled last week at the Center for the Arts, is either unmemorable or bone-crunchingly difficult, the principle of Program II is on the mark. The idea, like Helgi Tomasson's "UNited We Dance" Festival last spring, was to encourage, support and foster the art of choreography, while giving the dancers a challenge and the audience a thrill.

Forced into the smaller venue at Yerba Buena Gardens by the seismic retrofitting of their Opera House home, S.F. Ballet could have played it safe with moonlight and old roses. Instead, Tomasson invited an Australian, a German and an American choreographer to see what they could make of the intimate Center for the Arts stage, some contemporary music, and S.F. Ballet's eager young dancers. It's a safe bet that none of these dance makers has ever had so many well-trained, musical ballet bodies at his disposal.

Stanton Welch, the Aussie whose *Corroboree* was a big hit at "UNited We Dance," opted for the obvious in the slow movement of *Maninyas*, set to Ross Edwards' hauntingly rhythmic Violin Concerto. Welch had S.F. Ballet's homecoming queen and quarter-back hero — Elizabeth Loscavio and Yuri Possokhov — tussling

romantically, just the way they do for Tomasson and every other unimaginative choreographer who admires her beautiful line and his hunky physique. I'm still waiting for someone to see something in them besides plastic wedding cake figures gone mad.

The first movement wasted the best music in the score (Roy Malan was the soloist) and seven of the company's most individual dancers — Joanna Berman, Sonja Kostich, Stephen Legate, Jose Martin, among them — with some half-lit, hard-to-follow hide-and-seek involving filmy curtains upstage. The curtains were infuriating because the evening's first piece — *Fly By Night*, choreographed by Christopher d'Amboise to recorded funk-jazz-mambo riffs on "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" (duh!) by Steven Bernstein — also employed drop curtains, only these were Venetian blinds. I was surprised to read in the notes that *Fly By Night* evoked Manhattan dance clubs; it sure looked like New Orleans to me.

Seyffert's 'Back Home'

The only work on Program II that warrants revival — though it looks so difficult to dance that my back was in sympathetic spasms all night — is Dietmar Seyffert's *Back Home*. Seyffert is from East Germany and, judging by his comments in the program, is still an unrepentant Marxist. Whatever that means politically, for dance it means that his anti-war sentiments, while admirable, are hardly fresh and original. Kurt Jooss made *The Green Table* to original, commissioned music in 1932; it's as avant-garde now as it was then. Seyffert opted for Mahler, specifically the ironic war songs from *Knaben Wunderhorn*. Without texts, though, I doubt the average audience can make much connection between the songs and the ballet's narrative.

The piece takes a while to get going, but then it delivers in spades. Fourteen girls clad in red slip dresses, carrying green apples and sometimes wearing sunglasses, tease six boys dressed in black pants and white civilian shirts. As the music turns more militant, the boys act out war games, pretend-

ing to shoot each other, and butting heads and bodies in a macho display. One fellow (David Palmer) strips to his skivvies and dons combat boots and a floor-length camouflage overcoat. His goose-stepping and precision turns are chilling. War is hell, and he has turned from a light-hearted youth to a military monster.

Worse, instead of dying on the battlefield, he returns home, physically and mentally shattered. Berman, as the girl he left behind, is forced to cope with this violent, half-dead hulk. She has no choice but to glorify him and his "sacrifice." None of this is pretty and it is more Expressionist *Tanz-theater* than real choreography, but only a fool would deny that — with Palmer and Berman in the lead roles — *Back Home* is an emotional tour de force. Palmer, easily the most butch dancer in the company, has been handed the role of a lifetime and he gives it all he's got. His pale thighs, though enormously powerful, give him a touch of helpless vulnerability that is strikingly at odds with his strength and brutality.

I wonder, however, about some of the lifts Seyffert requires of his dancers — men and women, often from deep on the floor. I kept hearing creaks and cracks that I pray were not human sinew and bone. One dancer has already been seriously hurt working on this ballet; let's hope they get through the next series of performances (at the Palace of Fine Arts, now through March 10) without further casualties.

Soprano Helene Zindarsian and baritone Bruce Rameker started shakily, but he was working at full expressive power by the ghastly song, "Der Tambour'sell." I couldn't see who was in the pit, but from the eloquence of the musical performance, I wasn't surprised when Denis de Coteau took his bow. ▼

Program II of the San Francisco Ballet continues through Sunday at the Palace of Fine Arts. Seats are still available. Call 865-2000 for tickets and information.

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Halprin Retrospective Kicks Off 10th Edge Festival

Footloose

by Wendell Ricketts

At age 75, Marin-based choreographer, dancer, and post-modernist Anna Halprin is a living piece of dance history. But don't get the idea that she's some kind of relic — Halprin is as physically spry as she is mentally agile. When she was diagnosed with cancer 24 years ago, she'd already done enough work, been enough places, and studied and collaborated with enough of the pioneers of American modern dance to top off two careers. Since then, she's filled up at least a couple more.

Halprin's 75th Year Retrospective, the first program in Dancers' Group/Footwork's 10th Anniversary Edge Festival (curated this season by Mercy Sidbury), provided ample opportunity to reflect on Halprin's life and work.

The evening began, so to speak, *in medias res*. As the audience filed in, Halprin was already onstage, engaged in *Movement Ritual 1*, a series of choreographed extensions, flexions, and stretches that she performs each morning (and teaches at her Tamalpa Institute). Halprin continued moving as dance writer Janice Ross, Halprin's biographer, gave an overview of Halprin's history and of the development of the Halprin Life/Art Process, a technique the choreographer says gives her dancers and students greater flexibility to "be who they are."

Traveling through Halprin's oeuvre in more-or-less reverse order, the "official" program got underway with Halprin's performance of her 1994 solo *Grandfather Dance*, a tribute not just to her family's patriarch but to her own history as the daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants.

Put simply, it's an exquisite piece. Halprin captures her grandfather's "dance" — his davening at Shul, his fist-shaking arguments with God, his breast-beating of atonement at Yom Kippur services — and transforms them so magnificently into choreography that, at times, an old man with a white beard, black robes, and a stylishly fringed *tallis* steps into the space where Halprin used to be. *Grandfather Dance* is an adult's dance, made equally of a

celebration of living and of a dignified consciousness of mortality. We should all be mourned so elegantly.

'Parades and Changes'

An excerpt from Halprin's 1965 *Parades and Changes* followed, reverently articulated by a dozen local performers. Among other things, *Parades and Changes* is a humbling reminder that what is today considered "avant-garde" owes a direct debt to pioneering work like Halprin's. Indeed, *Parades and Changes'* near-constant nudity strikes modern audiences as unremarkable. But, as Halprin put it, when the piece was originally performed in Sweden, "it was a great ceremony of trust between us and the audience; in New York I got arrested."

Parades and Changes makes use of "tracks" of ordinary movement — in specific the one Halprin calls "dressing up/dressing down." The 12 performers, costumed in white shirts and black slacks, arrive in a line and face the audience. Slowly, one begins to undress; in canon, the others follow. By the time the last is completely naked, the first has gotten dressed again. The dancers walk across the stage, take up new positions, and the process repeats itself. At the end of each cycle, the dancers move closer together, until, during the final sequence, they are face-to-face in pairs, staring intently into one another's eyes as they remove their clothing for the last time.

During the dressing and undressing, a stagehand has been unrolling huge strips of butcher paper across the floor. The performers burrow their naked bodies into it, ripping it into ribbons and crumpling it into balls, and the sound of all that paper crackling and tearing becomes overwhelming and delicious.

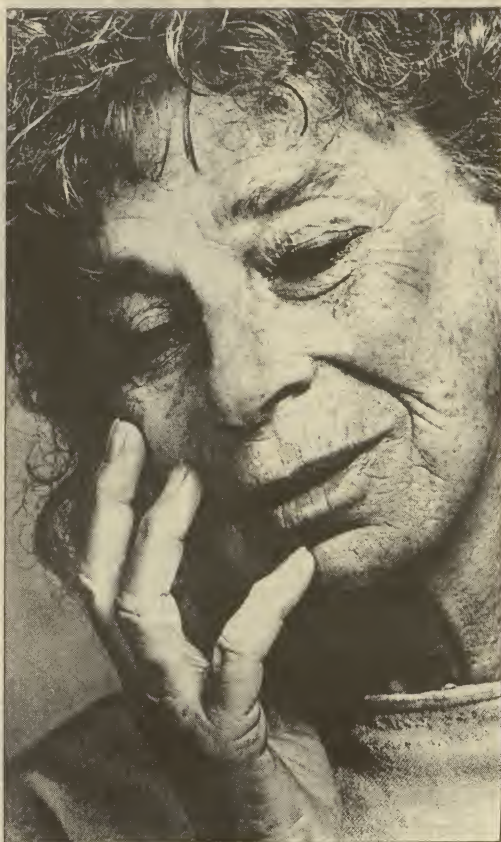
As simple as the movement is, *Parades and Changes* is riveting. There's a piety in it that makes the performers simultaneously vulnerable and solid as a rock; what sweeps over the audience in waves is the exponential strength of individuals whose sense of self — indeed, of *privacy* — is unsailable.

But nothing good lasts forever, and Halprin ended the evening

on an unfortunate note with *Remembering the Dead, Dancing for the Living*, a demonstration of the "healing dances" that have been Halprin's primary work over the last couple of decades. Performers "challenging" AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening diseases appeared in red; everybody else was dressed in black. What ensued was a kind of primal-scream ritual — the performers in red violently acting out the "monsters" of their illness — that Halprin calls "dance that changes the dancer."

Well, no doubt it does, and no doubt Halprin's popular workshops and classes do much good. But a ritual observed — or "witnessed" in Tamalpa jargon — is not a performance. Halprin's healing work ought to be reserved for those who want to and can participate wholeheartedly, and not be carved out of context, theatricalized, and passed off as some kind of "edgy" performance. Indeed, involving an audience voyeuristically and non-consensually in a deeply intimate process is not edgy, it's just rude.

Were it not that Halprin is a gifted and creative choreographer, were it not that hers is a distinguished history that deserves the utmost respect, and were it not that her 75th Year Retrospective included work of unimpeachable worth, one might dismiss *Remembering the Dead* as cynically faddish. As it is, one simply questions her judgment in presenting it as art. ▼



Anna Halprin

Photo: Kent Reno

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John Fisher's *Combat!* Love and War

by Jerry Metzker

One of the most intriguing and beautiful sequences in John Fisher's new play, *Combat! An American Melodrama*, currently on the boards at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Playhouse, follows the training and battle sequences of a small unit of Marines, which includes one black and two homosexuals.

Fisher has often said that he is interested in telling the stories of gay people, and where history has been less than helpful, he has chosen to pull bits and pieces of information together to create a gay perspective on those shortcomings. *Combat!* culls material from myriad sources to examine the plight of homosexuals in the military, and, in particular, traces the evolution of the thinking that culminated in today's notorious "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

The stories in *Combat!* begin with Dr. Harry Stack Sullivan — played by longtime Fisher colleague Paul Tena — the gay psychiatrist who wrote the psychological portion of the national se-



Paul Tena as Dr. Harry Sullivan in *Combat!*

lective service test that eliminated homosexuals from the military during World War II. Fisher mines this fertile territory with great results, showing that people like Sullivan, who refused to acknowledge that there were homosexuals

in the military during that war, are not a thing of the past in America but are alive and well today among this country's continually growing conservative ranks.

The play also follows high

Continued on page 53

Jean Seberg

Continued from cover

tions — the sadistic Preminger, Godard, novelist Romain Gary, the Panthers — poured their often misogynist obsessions.

Writer-director Mark Rappaport, who made the 1992 film *Rock Hudson's Home Movies*, has devised an ingenious strategy for dealing with this complex character in *From the Journals of Jean Seberg*. He hired Mary Beth Hurt (born 10 years later in the same Iowa town as Seberg) to play the actress as if she had not committed suicide in 1979 and was in fact alive today as a sort of performance artist, film historian and cultural commentator. The illusion is remarkably successful from Hurt's first appearance: she has the look of an aging gamin, disillusioned but still vibrant and droll. The title of the film is typical of Rappaport's devious approach — the "diaries" don't exist; they're simply a clever conceit Rappaport uses to explore issues of voyeurism, stardom and exploitation.

The format of the film is loosely chronological, starting with Seberg's appearance in *Saint Joan* after being chosen from 3,000 contenders. We learn that Preminger's legendary cruelty extended far beyond the usual director-actor trials: on the day that a *Life* magazine photographer was invited to cover Joan being burned at the stake, Preminger allowed Seberg to actually be burned. This event is rendered in a dazzling collage style typical of the film, including shots from the production, images from the *Life* story, and Hurt talking about the event directly to the camera.

Rappaport puts Seberg in context as one of an army of cinematic Joans — Ingrid Bergman, Falconetti, Alida Valli — through clips that show both Seberg's freshness and youth and the beginnings of the exploitation of her image and her entrapment by it. Hurt talks in mock-horrific tones about the "curse of Joan," how the role had all kinds of tragic repercussions in the lives of the actresses who played her. Rappaport's leisurely digressions begin here, with Hurt describing things as seemingly tangential but fascinating as the fact that Falconetti's grandson was the first person in France to die of AIDS (in 1984).

Seberg's next film was also for Preminger, *Bonjour Tristesse*. This time, Rappaport gives her a kind of posthumous revenge against the dictatorial director. During filming, Preminger played tormentor by threatening to replace her with Audrey Hepburn. In a startlingly clever scene, Rappaport shows an exchange between Seberg and David Niven, then reprises it by superimposing

Hepburn's head over Seberg's. Hurt says she was secure that no 29-year-old (Hepburn) could play a 17-year-old. This is one of several comic superimpositions in the film, the funniest perhaps being when Hurt speculates that Barbara Streisand must have been one of the 3,000 women who tried out for *Saint Joan*. In the scene of Joan burning at the stake, Rappaport replaces Seberg's head with that of poor wailing Babs.

Careening career

Seberg's career was filled with disappointments — good roles that flopped at the box office (*Lilith*) and bad roles that succeeded (*Airport*). Her personal relationships were equally disappointing, but particularly with Romain Gary, whose female characters, she tells us, were invariably whores and nymphomaniacs.

This revelation is part of a striking sequence that links her with Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave. Rappaport explores issues of sexism, fetishism and exploitation in this trioka — Fonda's marriage to Vadim resulting in fetish fantasies like *Barbarella*, Redgrave suffering (if not quite so vividly) at the hands of Tony Richardson, and of course, Seberg enacting her husband's lurid, sexist fantasies in a string of films. Seberg, speaking through Hurt, wonders why so many writers and directors insist on offering images of their wives as hookers and femme fatales.

Of course, Fonda, Redgrave and Seberg had another crucial similarity: activist politics. And all suffered for it, says Seberg, though Fonda "was protected by her star image." Redgrave's work with the PLO decimated her roles, and she eventually passed into character parts. And Seberg? She was framed by the FBI, Hoover in particular, who leaked stories that she was pregnant by one of the Black Panthers, whose cause she fought for. When her child (the father was Romain Gary) died at birth, she insisted on a glass coffin, to show the world they had been duped. A series of nervous breakdowns followed that eventually killed Seberg in 1979 at the age of 40.

While the essentials of Seberg's life are here for star-gazers, Rappaport uses her as a springboard for a discussion of larger issues. His combination of patchwork-quick visuals, comic superimpositions, witty speculations on showbiz ("It's called show business, not show art," Seberg reminds us), and intriguing analysis of America's fixation with the female face and body, makes for both imaginative biography and art. ▼

From the *Journals of Jean Seberg* plays March 8-13 at the Castro Theatre.

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Pansy Division: Dustin Donaldson, Chris Freeman, and Jon Ginoli.

Homospun

Pansy Division
Wish I'd Taken Pictures
 Lookout Records

by Jeffery Kennedy

Although alternative rock movers-and-shakers love to pat themselves on the back for being oh-so-cool about homosexuals, this acceptance is virtual, not real. It's okay for oddball folk singer Jill Sobule to croon a noncommittal ditty about kissing a girl as long as in the video she ends up in Fabio's arms. It's okay for a major label to sign Los Angeles homocore band Extra Fancy because HIV-positive lead singer Brian Grillo repeatedly tells the straight press that his sexuality just doesn't matter. He's a fag, he admits, but it's meaningless; in the process, Grillo simply reinforces the superiority straight people feel toward gays and lesbians.

Meanwhile, the real things — Portland's Team Dresch, Olympia's Sleater-Kinney, and San Francisco's Pansy Division — avoid the mainstream, often by choice, and make better records because of it. Rumor has it that despite touring with Green Day — the most popular punk band in the

U.S. — last year, Pansy Division was never even approached by a major label. Not that Dustin Donaldson, Chris Freeman and Jon Ginoli would sell their collective soul for corporate glory if given the chance.

It's this spirit of independence that makes *Wish I'd Taken Pictures*, Pansy Division's fourth album, remarkable. Although better produced and recorded than their previous efforts, *Pictures* mines similar territory: gay sex, gay sex, and more gay sex. The titles are self-explanatory: "Horny In The Morning," "Vanilla," "Dick Of Death" (gay argot for "well-hung," but a poor choice of words nonetheless). Pansy Division's characteristic sexual playfulness, however, is tempered here by a bittersweet loneliness. Several songs — "The Summer You Let Your Hair Grow Out," "Expiration Date," "Sidewalk Sale" — address missed connections and solitude. Isolation undermines romance in "The Ache." The passing of time, it seems, hasn't been kind to the trio.

Throughout *Pictures*, Pansy Division is courageously in-your-face, out-and-proud gay: no hemming, no hawing, no apologies.

They obviously care deeply about the gay and lesbian kids they try to reach with their music. The CD booklet includes contact information for gay and lesbian youth support services as well as condom instructions. A pink triangle is emblazoned on the CD itself, and the cover photos show two young gay men in various states of (un)dress enjoying each other's company. These are powerful, pro-gay messages that cut through alternative rock's homophobic smokescreen. ▼

Musical Milestones

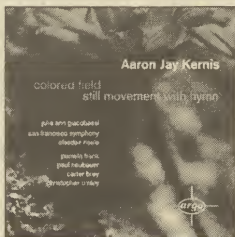
by Philip Campbell

In a welcome flurry of activity, the San Francisco Symphony has released three new compact discs in just a matter of days. All are good, two exceptional, and one an outright triumph.

Aaron Jay Kernis
Colored Field; Still Movement
 With Hymn, Argo

One of the best commissions from the SF Symphony in recent years was written for English horn virtuoso Julie Ann Giacobassi, who premiered the piece here in 1994.

There is a powerful program underlying the three-movement *Colored Field*, but I'm glad I listened to the piece before reading the accompanying notes. The titles are actually more evocative



and appropriate than the subtext. This is a moving, concise and very beautiful score that proves modern music can be listener-friendly without resorting to simplistic repetitions or spiritual posturing.

A reflective opening guides us to an exotic sound world filled with busy splashes of color and a gorgeous maze of sonorities. The

Continued on page 44

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Photo: courtesy Falcon Studios

BAR TALK

PARTING GLANCES

Andy, 2/2 Friday A Language Of Their Own

Sat next to you and chatted before and after the show. You speak fluent French and you were with a friend from France. Too shy to offer you a ride Single? Interested? Let's meet for coffee. Me Filipino w/ a good heart and a friendly smile. ☎ 8801.

Andre Bik Bodybuilder W/ Big Dick

Met met 2/1/96 in the Castro on a hot day. You looked very hot and I loved the hot sex we had back at my place. You can really fuck. I lost your number, please call Tony, Italian 88, for more hot sex. ☎ 8802.

Claus The Masseuse

We met once in 92-you were looking for a conversation partner in Mandarin. We ended up giving each other massages, among other pleasures. Would like to connect again. ☎ 8803.

33 Ashbury Mtn Line

You, combed back red hair, mustache, great eyes. Got on bus at Castro, got off at Geary and Arguello. Me, tall, dark hair, husky-We made eye contact-would you like to talk? ☎ 8804.

Feb 11, 2:30 pm Hot -4-Hunky You were too. You, big guy in plaid shirt. Me, short overall, leather base cap. We first saw each other at restroom both with friends. As we left, we both started to talk. Let's give ourselves another chance to say hello. ☎ 8805.

Mark we met

Ran into each other at City Athletic Club Dec 95. I asked if you'd like to get together for a drink or lunch. You ride a motorcycle, have lived in SF for 5 yrs. Fr. Ohio. Catholic. Me, have a Vespa, Fr. LA, lost gym membership would like to connect. ☎ 8806.

Great Thighs-City Athletic

Eyed you in the locker room one morning just before 9. I uttered my admiration as I passed by (hunking you in a taxi towel). You acknowledged my comment, we both smiled at each other. But I was in a rush. Call me. ☎ 8846.

FF 2/11 Folsom Video Booth

You, shaved head, muscular bottom. Me, top 1. I want more. How about a sing party, you slut. Call me. ☎ 8847.

Pierre @ Naha, Sunday Feb 11

It's Troy, not Sam! We spoke briefly at Naha. Was looking at some boots. You were with a friend? I wanted to speak more. I'm glad you asked. Let's meet. Please call. ☎ 8848.

Paolo/Mario Met At Universe, 2/10

You, tall mid-big build, goatee, glasses, wearing shorts. Me, med build, goatee, short hair, wearing denim overalls. You came by (hunking you) introduced yourself. Got separated. Did get chance to give you my #. Martin. ☎ 8849.

Headlines On Castro 2/15

You, Tall, red jacket, big jeans, tan boots, blonde w/goatee, wearing red cap, bkt & red plaid shirt, jeans, w/ friend. Saw you later on phone in front of Metro crossed each other but too shy. Did we connect? Dinner, maybe more? ☎ 8901.

#24 Bus 2/18 San; Royal Ground 2/18 8:30 pm

Smiled at you on bus walking back from Geary to Ellis but you were gone? I again at Royal Ground in my car. You amazingly cute, gold earring in left ear. Me, tall, dark, would love to meet you. Please call. ☎ 8902.

Valley Of The Dots 2/8/96

I bought your tall Helen candle. I must have. Anne, Jennifer, David. Your energy seemed warm & friendly. Let's meet. Call me, I'm Dave. ☎ 8904.

Brian

We met and spent an absolutely incredible 6 months together in Denver. I recently saw you @ 18th and Castro with some guy hanging on you. I need you, I love you, you look great. No more Crystal in my life. Please call, I miss you! ☎ 8905.

Fran Drescher Book Signing Sat Feb 17

You were standing in front of me in line to get book signed. You were wearing bkt, dk hair, great gym eyes, carrying shopping bag. I was wearing denim jacket, brn/grn. We chatted, would like to continue conversation. ☎ 8906.

Mike Wed 2/14

Met you briefly on Valentine's Day at Lion's Pub. You on your way out with female friend. Ran into you again outside. Too stunned to ask for your number. Would like to get together again. ☎ 8907.

One Rainy Sunday Afternoon On 2/18

You: cute white guy with nice legs walking on Calif. St. towards Van Ness. Me: Asian wearing khaki shorts and red cardigan standing on the corner of Calif. & Polk. We caught each other's eye. You glanced back to 4 times wanted to say Hi, but too shy. Let's get together! ☎ 8908.

Bruno's 2/20 8:30 pm

You: Handsome BM with WM friend, baseball cap. Me: WM with older friend. We said hello as we passed on the way to men's room. Wanted to follow you a second time to exchange info but felt uncomfortable. Let's meet. ☎ 8963.

Lone Star Sun, 2/18 Afternoon

You: Cute blond w/beautiful eyes and deep voice. Me: br/bl, w/bread wearing plaid flannel shirt. I watched you talk w/others on the patio. We made eye several times. I only managed to work up the nerve to say Hi, as I was leaving w/friends. Another shot? ☎ 9001.

Darnell

We met at that shady place in the tenderloin on a Tuesday night. You took my number. You let me sit. I wasn't home. I'd be another shot at it. Frank. ☎ 8903.

Patio Cafe, 2/16, 1pm

We were with two friends, I at the next table with one. Our eyes met many times... ☎ 8965.

Tues, 2/20 Vietnamese Lunch

12:30 pm, Vietnamese restaurant at the corner of Larkin & Ellis. You had lunch. I was waiting at the door for take out. We are both Asian. You came to me, told me my food was ready. I can't stop thinking of you. Please call. ☎ 9002.

Moca Java Man Fri 2/23 10 PM

We kept up long glances, but I had to leave with a friend. You: attractive, white guy, blue and white check shirt, close cut hair. Me: tall guy in bkt shirt, leather coat. Let's meet. Call. ☎ 9003.

Jan 27 White Mazda P/U Skis Silver Honda

Too tired from New Year's Celebration to try to talk. But faked Wells Fargo auto teller long enough to watch your sexy bkt spandex pants get into Honda w/breakfast. ☎ 9004.

Into Yoga, Lost Your Phone Number

My headline in ad you saw. Friendship based on equal trust and respect. Me, 42, WM. Did not have voice message on line. Please call. Want to talk to you. Thanks a lot (Asian) ☎ 9005.

Lone Star Sun 2/25

Enjoyed watching you kick butt at pool. Sorry we didn't get to trade numbers. Would like a private game. ☎ 9006.

Trader Joe's 2/24 Emeryville

Couldn't take my eyes off you. Followed you from pasta to cheese. You: Dk hr, 6', handsome, cute smile. Me: grey hr, handsome. Shy but managed to say "Never get out of here for under \$100." Call me. ☎ 9007.

Khan Phoa 2/19

You: handsome, young, Asian dining w/friend. Me: mature, grey hr, also dining w/friend. Eyes met across the room like to see you again. ☎ 9008.

Sat Feb 22, 1 PM Near Cala on 18th Street

You, short dk hair, w/newly-grown beard, bkt jacket/leather sleeves, going toward Castro. Me: dk hair, mustache, bkt light jacket, we looked back several times. Let's meet. ☎ 9009.

1/96-EJ-JM Park

In the shadows of the tree, we talked of Monterey Market, Madagas car and "The Lion was dead and the living dog had taken over." P.D. James would like more! Call me. ☎ 9010.

31 Balboa Bus, 2/23 Around 7:30 PM

You were carrying a miniature rose bush. I was standing behind you and ask you about your plant. I was taken by your beautiful eyes. Me: 5'10", brn/hr, mustache, and beard. I would like to know you. Wanna have coffee? ☎ 9011.

1808 Club On Saturday Night

The big dick shed w/ the hot shaved balls. I enjoyed stimulating your cock w/my hand and mouth. Your erection looked great as you walked around naked and hard! What an exhibitionist! Want to play again?? ☎ 9012.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP M-M

Wanted: Mister Wright

I'm 5'7", 140#, GLM. I'm looking to meet someone with a good heart, that loves to cuddle, spend quiet times, also likes to go out dancing, with GLM or GLM that could possibly lead a relationship. Serious only. ☎ 8807.

Hunky Houseboy Peninsula/RC

WM, 36 yo, 6'1", 210, 8m/8m/stache, very clean. Seeks lively position (room) in exchange for cleaning, laundry, life meals, and whatever else! Redwood city area ☎ 8808.

Hands On

Hung, HIV+, GBM, seeks GWM for possible relationship. 8' OK 5/8" in shape under 50. ☎ 8914.

Wanted: Tall Furrry Top Dad

33, 5'10", 155#, 8/8r, mustache, HIV+, healthy, very attractive, bottom looking for a top who's 38+, furry, mustache, looking for a relationship. We are sincere, professional, romantic, enjoy motorcycles, 501's, leather and all the finer things in life! Prefer NS/ND and HIV+. ☎ 8809.

Platonic, Good looking, Slim, Retired Guy

Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, HIV+, seeks similar guy, nonsexual. Interests: music, opera, politics, science etc. Smoke 8 Bars OK. SF. ☎ 8811.

GBM 41 Attr. 5'7 1/2"-180#

A very nice person seeking a person like myself. We enjoy long walks, good home cooking. Someone. A person with a real good understanding for life. I hope you are that person! ☎ 8811.

Rub Goatese Together

Goated red-head, 31, 6'1", 185#, HIV-, seeks goated GWM under 35, slim to med, HIV-, You and I are romantic, spirited, intelligent, cogitating, and love sharing ideas as much as physical passion. ☎ 8812.

Muscular Submissive

That's what I like-muscular, buffed men, mostly bottom, I'm handsome, successful, happy, 42, 6'1", 180#, HIV+. Good husband material. Cap with intimacy & feds. Seek special friend in 30's for dating. LTR, ND/NS. ☎ 8814.

Wolf On A Fox Hunt! ISO All-American Boy!

Masc, top, 38, 6', 195# by/hz, mod hairy, stocky, solid, handsome sks fox (22-36) w/ht/nis (gymboy, jock, skater) w/ht/bd/looks LTR: Educ, empl, romantic, HIV+ and healthy. Likes tie 2 bkt leather, tan lines or long hair a +, GBM pleasurable as a must! Your cocksize is unimportant-a big heart and good mind is! ☎ 8866.

Duh...Confused?

If the word "duh" begins a lot of your sentences, you may be duh guy. I'm looking for! Are you just a regular "blue collar type" guy? I'm a GWM, 47, 6', 150#, Lt & brz haircut, clean shaven, masculine, HIV-, top, NS. You should be very similar and in your 30's and ready to settle down. Call Me! ☎ 8851.

WDS Video Seeks Boy/friend

Have you lost your love to AIDS? Are you ready to date again? Me too. After 2 yrs I'm ready for a boyfriend. I'm masculine GWM, HIV-, 40, yo, 5'8", uncult, balding/bm/grn/ hair, goatee, hairy, I enjoy mt, biking, walks on beach, dinners, movies, cuddling, going to gym & cuddling. ☎ 8852.

Beer Hunting

Looking 4 dk haired beard, older, hairy, bearded for fun times. I'm 27, brn/grn, goatee, 155 #. You be 30+, funny, sexy stocky or beefy, with hairy chest, kind heart, and looking for a good looking cub. ☎ 8861.

Wanted: Spiritual, Adventurous, Caring, Energetic, Young Guy

Spiritual, loving, adventurous, handsome, mature man in wheelchair, finishing law school. Seeks big-hearted guy who fears nothing and wants complete, monogamous relationship. ☎ 8862.

I Know You're Out There Somewhere...

33, 5'8", 155#, masculine, hairy guy, brz & smooth olive and tumble wet very romantic. Seeks fun masculine guy same age 8' body size preferred. Ready for great relationship with great guy. ☎ 8909.

You're One In A Million

A true class act. A man of physical, mental, and spiritual strength. I'm a gym fit 42yo, GBM, bearded with shaved head, 6'1", 240#, I love music, literature, and hung versatile guys under 30 yo. ☎ 8910.

Sexy Buddhist Boy

Still seeking attractive man of substance, purposeful, generous, spiritually directed, with a taste for irony. 27-40, I'm 34, lean, attractive, young, 5'10", 150#, grn eyes, into yoga, cycling, theater and the world around me. ☎ 8911.

Financially Secure Male Wanted

8y me for a relationship for just good times. I am intelligent educated, attractive and glding. ☎ 8844.

Look No Further

GWM, 33, 5'6", seeking GWM for good times and good conversation. Smoker & social drinker. OK. Me: healthy, HIV-, with nice body & looks & personality to match. Your good personality w/weight comparable to me. ☎ 8915.

Hard Body Seeks Same

Sexy GWM, 6'3", 180#, NS, ND, 35 into working out, outdoors, looking to meet GWM, 23-39, who like me, is in great shape. HIV-, works out and values honesty and communication. ☎ 8915.

HIV+, Athlete's Social For Singles

Wanna meet hot, healthy, HIV+, gym boys that are single? We do exist if you wish to meet, date, romance, or just play with out fear, call to find out about this social. ☎ 8916.

Seeking Bottom HIV+

81, WM, 6'2", great shape, HIV+, 35, shy, but sexually aggressive top, looking for attractive guy, 18-35, HIV-, for sex and romance. ☎ 8917.

Heavy Set WM Seeking Sincere Asian

Recently single WM, 6'3", 275 #, looking for sincere GWM under 40. Likes movies, dinner, quiet times with right person. Prefer top but versatile OK. ☎ 8918.

Looking For A Nice Guy

Gay Eurasian, 6'1", 27, 260 #, very handsome, intelligent & down-to-earth. ISO, GWM, 25-35, please be honest & sincere, looks are not important. Your heart is! Sincere replies only. ☎ 8919.

Wheelchair Confined

WM, 5'8 1/2", 180#, 60's, uses walker/wheelchair due to arthritis, swollen feet. Parkinson's seeking sympathetic companion, driver, sex buddy. Age, race not important. Asian under 25 is a plus. LTR possible. ☎ 8920.

Seek GWM Big And Thick

Very attr, GBM, 40's, 5'10", 165#, HIV-, in very good shape, smooth body, nice cock. Seeks GWM, 46 to 65, HIV-, stock with a big, thick cock. Likes to lay back and be serviced for hours you will not be disappointed. (I promise). ☎ 8921.

Intimacy Required In Wint Creek

Tall, slender, handsome, bearded, loving, caring, intelligent, GWM, 51, HIV+. Need to share life: both the good and bad times, with someone who cares about the quality of life, and other people. ☎ 8922.

Well Educated GWM

I'm 34 yo, 5'10", 140#, well humored, soft spoken, mild tempered. Enjoys Star Trek, plants, weight training, drawing, painting. Seeking friendship/LTR with White, Latino, or Black men, 25-50, ND/NS. Wants a guy who believes sex is the spice in a relationship and knows the main course. Science-minded men a +. SF residents only. ☎ 8923.

Boy Wants To Meet Daddys

Me: GWM, 5'11", 170#, HIV+, 31 yo. Looking for top top daddys only. Chest hair a must. I'm kind of shy, love to come and watch movies at home. Love cuddling & kissing. Older daddys preferred 40-66. ☎ 8924.

Mature Dad Seeks Son

Dad is 72, 5'8", 160#, dominant and can be firm but considerate master as well as daddy to an 18-45, glding, sexy, boy who enjoys company of a more mature man, both in/out of bed. Ongoing p.f.d. ☎ 8925.

HIV+ Mexican Boy/friend Wanted

Attractive, athletic, tall, trim, freckled, young with beautiful body seeks sexy, slender, healthy Mexican guy. ☎ 8926.

New In SF

Looking for glding, GWM, 18-30yo, 8id., for possible relationship/friendship. Me: GAM 25 yo, 5'11", 145#. Please call. ☎ 8913.

Looking For Love

Glding, GWM, 38, 6', 180#, and HIV+. Seeks other glding positives for friendship and more. You must be glding and between the age of 30-40. Please NS, ND. Give me a call, you will not regret it. ☎ 8912.

One Regular Guy Seeks Another

GWM, 24, bld/bl, slim, attractive, professional, HIV+. Prefer coffee houses to bars. Looking to commit with mature, prof, handsome, articulate man. You should be self-secure, open to different options: able to communicate your own feelings and fantasies neg. ☎ 9014.

In Retirement But Not Sedentary

HIV-, likes good food & vodka. Intelligent conversation, occasional quiet bars and friendship, music, theatre. ☎ 9017.

E. Bay HIV+ Latin Top Wanted

Prefer Capricorn or Virgo, who smokes. GWM, HIV+, 33, bld/bl, 6', 150#, handsome widow in Concord area needs drk brn Latino. ☎ 9018.

Young Man Wanted

GWM, late 40's, X-88, seeks yng man for limited LTR w/travel, housing, dinner. Prefer student or \$B. Interested only considered. No BS. ☎ 9020.

Seeking Lifemate/Companion

In CA who would be interested in creating a home w/a former resident, GWM, early 30's, 5'8", 140#, brn/brn, clean shaven, bottom, NS. Eclectic, intellectual, love animals, arts, travel & massage. ISO, GWM, top w/similar interests. ☎ 9021.

Huge Muscular Top Wanted

Handsome, athletic, muscular, in shape, GWM, 35, 5'10", 185#, bld/bl, prof. Seeks tall, muscular, handsome, be athletic, quick, outgoing and fun. ☎ 9022.

Humor, Creative, Uninhibited

Relationship potential interests? Let's meet! Very attractive, masculine, creative prof. GWM, 40, 5'8", 140#, muscular, defined, slim mid hairy body, short beard, brn/bl, balding on top, HIV-, been very healthy, Jewish. Interested in NS, prof. GWM, 38-50, who's stable, in shape, financially secure enjoys laughing, romance, creative safe sex, nudist spirituality, loves, beach, travel, cooking, arts, friends, Lucy, Call. ☎ 9023.

Kakko II

GWM, 30, very cute, intelligent, caring, seeks cute Japanese, GAM, 21-37, for friendship or romance. Interested in modern rock, movies, cooking, dancing, and romantic evenings. Dento Shiyuu. ☎ 9024.

Santa Rosa Area Man To Man

Handsome, 36yo, WM, 6'1", 170#, furry chested, mustache, goatee, muscular, masculine, in shape, horny, athletic, down to earth county boy, seeks man who is similar for adventure, exploring, dating, 25-40yo. ☎ 9025.

Sensuous Scrog Seeks Muscular Man

Me: Asian/Pacific Islander, 38, 5'10", 180#, 88, bkt hair, smooth olive skin, financially independent. You: 88, NS, top, well hung, 25-45, any race. Only genuine guys who are into BB need response. Absolutely no Asians please! ☎ 9030.

Experimental Ad

Your emotional/mental profile is more valuable than all your age and physical attributes. All races welcome. Try me: 46yo, GWM, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, SF resident. ☎ 9026.

Poet Of The Soul

Are you a shooting star, traveling alone? I'm a poet of the soul, prof, HIV+, healthy, passionate, bottom, looking nvm. I'm a couple, but love without limits. Race is not important, although I'm a GWM my heart is latino w/ hablo espanol. You have gone beyond drugs & addictions, smoking OK. ☎ 9027.

HIV+ Craft Person Or Artist A+

Wanted for friendship & the sharing of creative interests, skill level unimportant. Me: 38, 5'9", 158#, GBM, masculine. You: thin to ave build, w/strong artistic interests. Anything else is open. ☎ 9019.

Midwinter Stuff

Shy, chubby, economically challenged bookworm seeks thin, chub chasing, Shakespearean, starving actor who looks good in sword fights and in bed. ☎ 9015.

A Positive Response

Glding, prof, HIV+, healthy, 41yo, 5'8", 155#, br/bl, trim, goate looking for very masculine, romantic guy, 38-42, who enjoys all kinds of music, dancing (especially 2-step), romantic dinners, moves & working out, who's ready for a good take relationship. ☎ 9016.

ISO Nice Guy

GWM, 46, 6', 170#, balding, blue, mustache, goatee, HIV+ Seeks GWM/GLM under 55, proportional. I enjoy pop, classical, social activities and quiet times at home. I am self-employed and feel it's time to settle down w/someone that is open and honest and who enjoys life. ☎ 9028.

Hopeful Romantic

GWM, 42, 6', 185#, drk hair/eyes, masculine, considered handsome, hairy, good build, enjoys hiking, bike rides, sunbath at the beach, candle-light dinners, and long passionate kisses. I'm HIV+ but extremely healthy. You should be honest, stable, not scared of commitment and interested in a loving, nurturing relationship. ☎ 9029.

Seeking E. Bay Masc 30's Male, Ave, Thinning?

6', big guy, not too fat, hairy, honest, likes all sports, good humor, stay-in. Me: 6', 175#, pretty boy, not too masc/ not too fem. Southern, stable, friendly, easy going, cute 27yo. ☎ 9031.

Japanese Tiger Seeks Top

Handsome, 40yo, 5'10", hairy, Japanese born, 5'7", 140#, versatile, friendly, healthy, HIV+, seeks stocky WM for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9032.

BAR TALK

No Strings Attached
GMM, 30, 6', 160#, 9', seeks GWM, 30-50, for afternoon fun. Not looking for a commitment. I'm just kick back and enjoy. **8932.**

Forekiss Servicing Required
HIV-, WM, with ample foreskin, 5'11", 400lb, 160#, br/bn, smooth, 7' uncult, wants to kick back and have his foreskin serviced, cleaned, stretched, docked, slow fr to cum. You 18-50, HIV-, Attr. with insatiable forekiss appetite. **8822.**

Latin Lover Wanted
Blk man, 5'11", 200#, hung, well built, handsome, looking for hung and hairy Latin male, poster write, romantic. Must be butch & like soccer. **8823.**

Hot Bottoms Only!
This beautiful, 8'x6", large, mush-room headed, cock looking for two wide open holes for fucking. This 6', 170#, GWM is seeking masculine studs for long hard ass pounding. HIV+ OK. **8824.**

Older Out-Of-Stage, But Hung and Horny
Blk top man seeks men who are experienced, mature, masculine, sincere and easy to reach by phone (direct contact phone # required). I'm a deep throat or hot rear. I'm in the E Bay. I call 6 am to 7 am. **8825.**

Shy Needs Help
New to the scene, looking for someone to show me the way. Interested in friendship or fr. I'm extremely affectionate, loving & caring. Looking for intimate, love, fr. I'm 53, yet youthful in spirit, 6'3", 185#, down to earth, T-shirt & jeans kind of guy. Various interests in outdoors & other activities, cuddling & being cuddled. You are honest, good at heart & easy going. **8013.**

HIV- Black
5'10", 155#, late 30's, thin build, nice ass, straight looking, bottom! Seeks top must have nice body and dick, average size OK. No short or pencil dicks please!! Little guy, big dick a +!! **8828.**

Wanted: Bottom Who Likes
To be used for pleasure, with deep throat, for big dick, balls, etc. Submissive but not craven. Take piss? You're hairy I'm smooth, tan. **8829.**

Naked Audition
Need a masculine guy with a trim build to do role play, interview, and strip for audition fantasy. Your casting director is a trim masculine, WM, 40. **8830.**

Short Butch BS Leatherman
Seeks similar for mutual expansion of limits. BD, TT, CBT, VA, boots, exhibitionism all a +. Leather/gym/sane lifestyle required. Serious only. **8831.**

Tall Trm Top
Aroused by power exchange? Slightly explore submission with smart, sexy, sane, successful, GWM, 42, HIV-, tall, slender, handsome. Prefer, 30's, attractive, spirited, muscular, or bluffer, ND/NS. **8832.**

Young Sexy Top Studs, Small Party!
Need 2 or 3 guys who want to have a party and use my mouth and great butt as the party favors for the group. dick size unimportant, patience, fun, slender clean bodies and ideas are. You guys 18-30, me late 30's but willing and eager!! **8834.**

GAM Looking for Big Top Man
5'9", 160#, loves to get it in the rear end, looks don't matter, age 25-40. I love to try anything FF, toys and specially big cock with lots of juice. I'm 30yo from Sacramento, will travel anywhere. **8855.**

Handyman
With strong hands and a steady mind, seeks bad boys who need help with their plumbing. Rippled, handsome, Irish, 5'11", 160#, (s) is a brn hair, goatee, lean, muscular, well-defined. I play w/spunky, lo-fi, bottom, boys under 30's who know what they like. **8858.**

Aggressive Romantic Top
Attrac, 5'10", 170#, nice hairy, rear end, 14" arms, cin shv, cut, thick, seeks very submissive hungry bottom under 32 yo. Be attract, ready to take it hard and serve horny top. Smooth At. **8857.**

AI Oral Service Delivered
GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature. No reproduction. **8858.**

Seeking Lean HIV+ Sex Slave
WM, 36, 140#, HIV+, dk-blond, lean defined, non-hairy, seeks boyish, HIV+, fuckable, 18-36, to humiliate and rape, hard & often (natural). Your quiet, submissive, smart, clean, NS, under 150#. You crave being held down, raped, used. Me handsome, x-hung, thick, careful, fast, brutal. Arrogant & sadistic in bed, mean & personable elsewhere. **8859.**

F*ck Master
If you're a thin muscle guy w/ defined biceps, veins, arms, and/or washboard abdominals, I'll plow your butt and take charge. All hole fantasies will be fulfilled. I'm 40, 185#, 35 yo, caucasian, muscular, very sexy chest, dick, hairy, dry eyes, dry mind, HIV-. **8828.**

Aussie Cock Needs Ass
Walnut Creek Aussie boy, 32, 6', 180#, 5', cut, straw/blond, hazel, HIV-, NS, ND, versatile. Seeking bottom (versatile fuck stud), 18-35, for nighttime hot, sticky fun. **8829.**

Cream in Pants
You. Thin muscle guy, 18-35, defined, very arms, and/or washboard abdominals, love to be used, light anorexic, prefer getting fucked, hard body, other sex fantasies possible. Me: Fit, muscle top, bent on domination, good times, fucker. **8931.**

GWM Top Sought by HIV+ Guy
36, 170, 5'11", hairy. Tell me how you want me to take it. **8930.**

Horny But!
Seeks frequent raw plowing. Me: 43, 6', 150#, buzzcut/balding, HIV+, smoker. Your: decent shape, HIV+, smoker. Kink? **8933.**

Smooth, Straight, 18-217
WM, 40's, balding, sucks horny young straight or bi males, 18-21, only Asian or Latin a +! Bn smooth and skinny-no working out! I have straight porn videos. No recip. Get your rocks off. **8934.**

I Love Small To Medium Cocks
Gdng, WM, 6'2", early 30's, bottom wants you. I like cuddling, dancing, cooking, videos, the ocean, receiving spankings. I'm for real & hope to hear from you! **8935.**

Uniform
I'm looking for you in a uniform. My turn on are: Police, Army, Marine, Navy or Cadet in leather. I'm 32, HIV-, 6'1", 190#, and if you under 45 and same, let's put our fantasy to work. **8936.**

Intimate Traveler
Very cute WM boy, 26 yo, from San Diego. Visit SF frequently on business. Seeking similar for friendship/safe fun/ poss. more. Maso/Dom, and into leather a +. Let's play. **8826.**

Friendship-Sex Buddy
Cute AI/Am guy, w/Filipino background, 25, 5'8", 165#, seeks cute/gdng Caucasian, Latinos, 24-36, only seek steady sex buddy, not just sex, friendship too, be his practice sex, be well endowed/love who enjoys being serviced. No 1 nite stands! **8853.**

East Me!
Masculine hairy bear, 43, 5'5", 135#, HIV-, with hot cock seeks hungry, talented, buddy for long hot sessions of oral worship and service. Verbal, imaginative, dominant. Marin can travel. **8953.**

Hot Hard Top Wants Your Ass
HIV+, WM, 30's, healthy, seeks younger guys or couples who enjoy watching, being watched, playing with toys and oral. Lite smoker and drinker. OK. Prefer my place in Oakland. **8952.**

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Ass Lickin'
I'm a GWM and a hairy top who wants to try being on the bottom. If you're a gldng muscular top, 28-35, I'd like to eat your ass. Have rim chair. Train me slow, sir. **8947.**

Forekiss Muncher
Big guy (6'5", 220#) crazy about that little something extra you have. Have your overhanging chesed, nibbled, sucked and tugged for your delight and mine. Be fit, hung and ready to surrender it. **8948.**

Hot Boxing Action
Is your fantasy a hot, private boxing match? Muscular 6'3", 180#, stud visiting this week has the equipment to make your dream come true. Novices welcome. Muscular bottoms a +. **8951.**

Exhibitionist And Voyeur
HIV+, WM, 30's, healthy, seeks younger guys or couples who enjoy watching, being watched, playing with toys and oral. Lite smoker and drinker. OK. Prefer my place in Oakland. **8952.**

Hot Hard Top Wants Your Ass
HIV+, WM, 40's, 5'6", 140#, w/ athletic build, hairy chest, brn/bn, clean shaven, will plow you good and deep with nice hard but always ready. If you are GWM/GLM in good shape, 25-35yo, must be clean shaven ready for fun & fucking! **8946.**

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Big Men
If you are stocky, hefty, or pleasantly fat, then I'm interested in possibly meeting you. GMM, 5'11", 235#, 42yo is looking for sexy big men for sensual encounters. **8951.**

Masc GLM Seeks Effeminate GM
Masc, GLM, 40, 6', 165#, dk hr & moustache, mod hairy. Looking for younger 21+, effeminate, GWM, GAM, who is very affectionate and enjoys giving slow, sensual oral service to me all over. **8942.**

Live Outside San Francisco?
I want to meet men who live outside SF to visit. I'm seeking new environments, new adventures, new friends. I'm muscular & friendly. UB2. **8949.**

Joystick Wrestling
Handsome, muscular, GWM seeks others turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fantasies and skill levels. No heavy rough housing. Just good, clean, sweaty fun. **8943.**

Sensual Hair-Handled Buddy
Wanted for physical connection at a tribal level. I'm 40's, 5'8", 180#, b/blu, HIV+, healthy (no gym), affectionate. Looking for other men of N. European extraction w/ facial & body hair to explore sensual brotherly bonding. **8954.**

Double Suck Show
Hot, trashy, GWM, 25, wants to watch big cock get sucked by 2 guys at the same time! Seeks horny, port-minded, cocksuckers who love to put on a show eating hard dick for sleazy, bone-tearing, explosive, cum-spurtling, face-splattering group suck performances. **8957.**

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European Travel Partner Wanted by GWM
Share expense 58', 130#, 64, up to one month Italy, Greece, other possibilities. Sex would be good. I'm HIV-, top. Speak some Italian, French, & have traveled in Europe. Broad interests. Healthy & active. Like art, opera, beaches, trains, backroads. **8953.**

Get Naked
Let my fingers, lips and hot mouth make love to your body. Prefer men under 45 w/smooth to lightly hairy. You be drug and disease free. No reproduction necessary. Call now for a new and erotic experience. **8955.**

Thickness In My Weakness
If you're 5' to 6'9" and thick, masculine. BM, HM, AM, WM, call. No feds. Good humor man. Like music (I like control to) But no phoney, be for real. **8956.**

Thick Leather Belts And Boots
Can I lick yours? I'm 33, boyishly handsome, great body, into bondage, leather, weightlifting belts, and boots. Cops, cowboys and guys with muscles especially welcome. **8944.**

FETISHES
Foot Cleaner
Attractive, hairy, late 40's, HIV-, E Bay man seeks nice, sexy footed masters who want me worshipping, gym-toned GWM, 24, pierced, seeks cute GWM muscle boys, 18-30, w/huge nipples and pecs into mutual sensual nlp play, massage, and other safe sex. **8967.**

Satanic Sex
Diapers, piss and latex rubber baby pants lets worship satan. I am 60 yo. **8845.**

Hairy, Muscled, Naked, Wrestler
Strong, muscled, very hairy, experienced grappler, 5'8", 164#, seeks similar stud (near size, muscled, hairy) into bare-ass, no-holds-barred, rough-house submission matches, in private ring. Let's swap some sweat, stud! **8958.**

Forekiss
I've got it. You can play w/mine if I can play w/yours. We know how we like our forekiss to be treated, so let's have uncult fun together! Please be like me: attractive, serious, HIV-, safe and not a fake. **8959.**

Cheerleader Bottom Seeks SF Top
GWM. Let me come over and put on my cute cheerleader outfit for you. Dominate me, make me suck you, fuck me. Pretend we're back in high school. Love WS too. Me: GWM. You: want to get into cheerleader's pants. **8960.**

Nice Guy Loves Barefeet
Lifetime excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Very aroused, sexually & sexually by kissing, licking, smelling, caressing barefeet in recreational action & p. Gdng E Bay, GWM, 5'8", 140#, tan, bearded, HIV-, NA, ND, EB preferred. **8961.**

Naked Houseboy/Servant/Slave Sucker Position
I need to do your housework/chores, take care of all your personal needs; while being kept naked and shackled. Reward me w/paddings, whippings or other tortures. You: attractive, in shape. Me: WM, 36, 5'11", 185#, attractive, in shape. **8962.**

Couples
Sincere Only
GWM couple 40's, looking for friends or more (single) and SM for intimate to the bar scene. **8839.**

OTHER
Sugar-daddy
Seeks GWM with masculine 25 to 40 into WS and SM for gourmet dining and travel. **8840.**

Multi-Racial Men's Group
Diversity! Multi-racial SF based men's social group seeks attractive, interesting, professional, physically, NS, single, 25-40, HIV- men. We're interested in meeting others for relationship opportunities or social exchange, please leave a message. **8841.**

Artist
Looking for other artists or admirers or financially secure male interested in offering a helping hand to an artist. **8842.**

Free Quality Massage
Strong, sensual, nurturing, full-body Swedish massage for nicely built young men. I'm 6'2", 175#, 43, gdng, muscular, sincere. Experienced. Table. Because you enjoy it! **8960.**

Internet Guide Wanted
Want to talk to guys who are experts or novices to help me learn 9's & outs of newsgroups. Have Windows 95 w/ Netscape. Computer nerds welcome. **8961.**

HIV+ A Reaffirming Approach
Meet others who believe that long term survival is possible, want to accept and transform themselves. Emphasis on social activities, being part of a team, a process of change, a common sense of direction, fulfilling our destinies, helping others with HIV to do the same, and a humanist spirit. Groups forming in 3 continents. Meet others, learn experience and chart an open future. **8962.**

SF Granddaddy
Slim, GWM, 60's, beard, moustache, looking, HIV-, seeks hairy affectionate show off grandson, possibly a country boy at heart like me to relieve and satisfy mutual intense oral inclinations. Yum yum. **8963.**



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Due to the substantial increase in subscribers to BarTalk, we must now limit one ad per customer per week.

East Bay Deep Throat
Handsome, tall, slim, masculine, friendly, 37yo, clean shaven, blue-eyed sword swallower, will serve 18-35yo, handsome, in-shape, horny guys. Deep fuck my velvet throat, pound away till explosive release. **8838.**

White Boys Wanted
By a very handsome Persian male in his 20's, for fun and possibly more. You: 25-35, WM, with great looks, body and personality. I'm boyishly built, interesting and selective. Sexual chemistry a must. **8939.**

Sucker For Men In Uniform
I'm 48 with a weakness for men in uniform-especially cops & firemen-will service all. No reproduction expected. Just lean back and relax and let me worship you. Comfortable surroundings. **8940.**

Scottish Laddie Recently Moved From Philly
GWM, 39, 6'4", 175#, b/bl/gray hair, HIV-, enjoy cooking, old movies, beach, 2 step quiet times looking for buddies to hang out with 30-50 yrs. 5'10" and up, NS in shape with similar interests. **8942.**

Double Adventure
In shape, versatile, 5'11", hung big, needs other men (20's-30's), well built, hairy body, with a big firm hairy bubble butt to eat and fuck. **8943.**

Looking for HIV+ Latin Top
For friendship and sexual encounters. I'm WM, 40, b/hair, ex eyes, 170#, 50, HIV+, healthy, passionate, attractive, bottom. I can take all you can give me, love kissing

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 8

Answered Prayers

Robert Coffman reads selections from Truman Capote's unfinished novel. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm thru 3/16. \$10. Studio @ Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Les Ballets Africains

African dance company in *Heritage*, retelling of 12th Century legend of Bala Fassake Kouyate. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. \$12-22. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Combat!

An American melodrama by John (*The Joy of Gay Sex*) Fisher. Thurs-Sat. at 7:30pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 3/10. \$8. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Detour

Theatre Concrete combines music, theater and robotics in a trip thru the collective unconscious. Fri. & Sat. thru 3/9. \$7. 550 Natoma. 621-4068.

Diablo Ballet

Dancing Wells/Moricz's *Pas de Trois Classique*, more. Fri. & Sat. at 7:30pm. \$20-30. Dean Leshner Reg. Ctr. for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. (510) 943-SHOW.

Evening of Mystery

"And Laughter," authors Jean Taylor and Mabel Maney, free. 7:30pm. Bernal Books, 401 Cortland. 550-0293.

Gay Comedy Night

Scott Capurro, Hank Donat, Doug Holsclaw. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

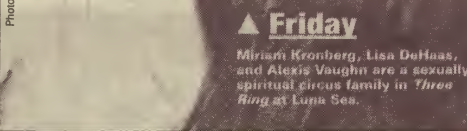
Hay Fever

Noel Coward's comedy about an eccentric theatrical family. Thurs-Sun. thru 3/10. \$15. Tonight at 8pm. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 346-3107.

Herstories:

"Cutting Through the Yellow Wallpaper," exhibition of mixed media works by Virginia Bowen. On view 3/8.

Photo: Louise Suta



Friday

Miriam Kronberg, Lisa DeHaas, and Alexis Vaughn are a sexually spiritual circus family in *Three Ring at Luna Sea*.

15, 29, Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Homer G.

"G the Rhapsodies in the Fall of Detroit," a hip-hop fall of Troy by Ila Bayeza, episode 1: "The Judgment of Paris." Thurs-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 3/10. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter. 474-8800.

Bill T. Jones

"Arnie Zane Dance Company" in *Ursonate, New Duet and D-Man in the Waters*. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$18-22. Center for the Arts Theater, Howard at 3rd St. 392-4400.

Lypsinka Must Be Destroyed!

"The First Farewell" Like a glamorous phoenix, Lypsinka rises from the ashes of her Minnellian nightmare. Thru 3/31. \$18-20. 8pm. Sats. at 8:10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Return to Ordinary Life

Premiere of dancework by Contraband. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/10. \$12.50-18.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Singing Myself a Lullaby

Performance/ video collaboration between dancer John

Henry, artist Doug Rosenberg, Jack Carpenter and composer Victor Spiegel, part of Dancers' Group/Footwork's Edge Festival. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$12-15. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 824-5044.

Three Ring

Sexually spiritual circus family: Lisi DeHaas, Miriam Kronberg, Alexis Vaughn. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/16. \$8-12. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. *216C. 863-2989.

Twisted Pairs

Annette Divew plays an Amish farmgirl in George Coates' latest creation. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 3/10. \$15-34. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 863-4130.

2 Boys in a Bed...

"On a Cold Winter's Night," James Edwin Parker's comic tale, directed by Ed Decker. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 3/16. \$12-16. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Saturday 9

Dump Jesse Helms

"N.C. Mobilization '96" gay/les/bi/trans fundraisers to defeat Helms, meet every Sat., 2pm, Rm 106, MCC, Eureka at 18th. 863-9792.

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

11th anniversary hike to Alamo Falls, Pt. Reyes. Bring lunch, water. Leaves Safeway, Church & Market, at 8:30am. Rain cancels. 386-5691.

International Women's Day

Keynote by Angela Davis, poetry by Chrystos, music by the Gospel Accordion to Women, more, benefits women in prison. \$10-25. 7pm. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St. 255-7036 x 4.

Iolanthe

Lamplighters Music Theatre performs Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta: flock of fairies challenge the peers of Parliament. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 3/31. \$19-23. Lindland Theatre, 175 Phelan. 277-0331.

Psycho Monkey on Planet Earth

Disfigured young man and his twisted family tree: monologue with dance, original score, presented by The Marsh. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/23. \$15. Norse Auditorium, 275 Hayes. 826-5750.

¿Que Nuevas?

"What's New? The Immaculate Conception," a multimedia extravaganza by Latina Theatre Lab. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm thru 3/17. \$10-15. Braval Studio Theatre, 2180 Bryant. 658-4543.

Sharon Art Studio

Art classes and workshops in the spring, registration today. 9am. Sharon Art Studio, Golden Gate Park. 753-7004.

Spit Out Your Gun...

"It's School Policy, a comedy ? about teaching" by Miriam Engelberg and Gayle Schmitt. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 2:30pm thru 3/31. \$12. Asian American Theatre, 403 Arguello. 922-6841.

Women's Big Basin Hike

8 to 10-mile hike in the Santa Cruz mountains. Bring lunch, water, share of expenses. Leaves Safeway, Church & Market, at 9am. Rain cancels. 626-5470.

Sunday 10

Affirming Equality:

"Women and Affirmative Action" educational confer-

ence for women. \$2-5. 10:30am-5pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 693-2707.

Art From the Heart Heals

HIV/AIDS art exhibit, reception today, 3pm. Runs thru 3/23. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 647-2005.

Pan Dulce

Latin dance party, DJ Tim Martinez. \$7. 10pm-2am. V/sf, 278 11th St. 621-1530.

Jimmy Somerville

Appearing at Pleasuredome. \$7. 8pm-6am. 177 Townsend. 985-5256.

Time

Dance party, music by Buc/Atlanta. \$10. 6pm-2am. 715 Harrison. 675-5661.

Unconditional Love

Rev. William J. Dunn speaks to PFLAG/SF. 3pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Wankin' Teens

Psychobilly music, plus DJ Tracy Dick, dance lessons from Fabulous Juan. \$3. Lessons, 8pm; band, 9pm. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market. 861-5016.

Monday 11

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Lisa Geduldig, aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Goldfield & Koldewyn

Musical team in songs romantic and vaudevillian, Mondays thru 4/8. \$10/ 2 drink min m. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Young Tongues

Rap group for les/ bi/ trans women 23 & under, Antigone Hodgins: living w/HIV. 7pm. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Tuesday 12

John James Audubon

Exhibit of "The Watercolors for *The Birds of America*" thru 4/14. \$6. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Louise Bourgeois: Drawings

Major retrospective of celebrated octogenarian artist. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/24. \$6. University Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Dance Makers Speak:

"Identity in Choreography," symposium on culture, gender, and sexual orientation in dance includes Robert Henry Johnson, Anne Bluethenthal, others, free. 6pm. Arts and Industry bldg, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-1478.

Flesh Flash

"The Body Electric," Rick Herold's paintings on vinyl, thru 4/4. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant, Loft 110. 284-0567.

Heat Wave:

"Women in Love and Lust" contributors read, incl. Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Nisa Donnelly, others, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Positive:

"A Visual Aid Legacy" exhibition curated by Larry Rinder, includes Sam Allen, Ed Aulerich-Sugai, David Cannon Dashiell, John Davis, Elliott Linwood, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/27. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 777-8242.

Protease Inhibitors

"Prophylaxis and PCR," a HIV/AIDS patient education seminar, register by 3/8. Free, complimentary box dinner. 6pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 800-631-9287.

Tradition

"American Realism: Past and Present" exhibition, thru 3/30. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

What About AIDS?

Exhibition "for the whole family" - science, art, remembrance, runs thru 6/2. \$9. The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon. 563-7337.

Wednesday 13

The Associates

Sketch comedy that makes a mockery of hypocrisy. Wed. thru March. \$10. 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Beach Blanket

Musical tour world now in Family. Wed. times. \$18-48pm. Club F. 421-4222.

Gallery

Group show Armstrong, Brooks Ande, Mulligan-Sha. 771-0663.

Gulf Dred

Emma Perez debut novel, bion growing free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia.

Holy Joe

Intense melody lead singer Drip Joy open Pussyat 8 Folsom.

Low Cool

SF Art Institute anniversary includes McCarthy, Ri. 3/17. Walter, SF. 800 CI. 749-4588.

Morpho

Group sculpture features new Michael Dam Simpson, Ter more. Wed. 3/17. Walter, SF. 800 CI. 749-4588.

Sweat G

Chicago's all writer/perfor part of the Theatre Festival. 7:30pm. 10 Studio Theatre.

Purple Vi

Ossie Davis' race relations South. Wed. 3/30. \$8-12. Theatre, Potr Neighborhood. De Haro. 550.

Round Up

New gay and try/western. 278 11th St.

Slavs!

"Thinking Ab Longstanding Virtue and H. Tony Kushner 4/19, call for \$34. Tonight Berkeley Reg Addison, Ber (510) 845-47.

Twilight: Angeles,

Anna Deaver nearly 40 res with perspective. 8pm. Marine 609 Sutter. (

Andrew Lloyd We

"Music of the cal concert s Gray. Tues-S. for times. \$3 at 8pm. Gold. 776-1999.

Thursday

Art for th

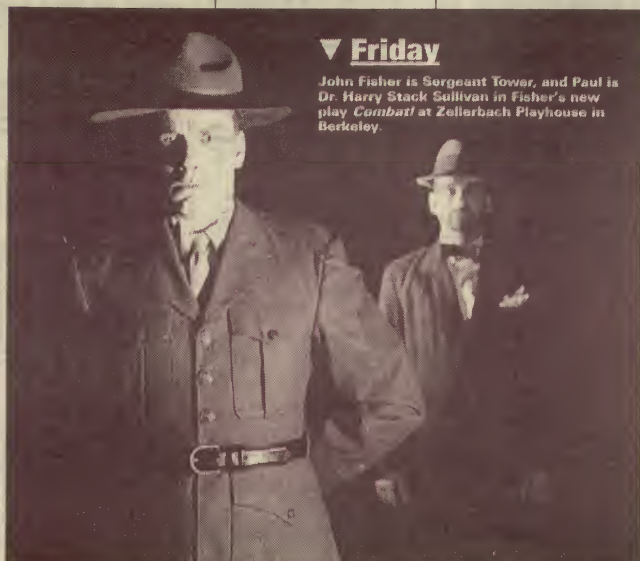
Introductory "artistically in educator Mit. 6:30pm. Info. Institute. 552

Bingo

Gay bingo be Home Hospic. \$12. Doors 6 Redeemer Ch Diamond St.

Communi

Public forum Community C



Friday

John Fisher is Sergeant Tower, and Paul is Dr. Harry Stack Sullivan in Fisher's new play *Combat!* at Zellerbach Playhouse in Berkeley.

Beach Blanket Babylon
Musical tour around the world now includes the Royal Family. Wed-Sun, call for times. \$18-45. Tonight at Tom Club Fugazi, 678 Green. 421-4222.

Gallery Selections
Group show includes Martha Armstrong, Ben Bergstein, Brooks Anderson, more. Tues-Sat. thru 3/29. Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Gulf Dreams
Emma Perez reads from her debut novel, a chicana lesbian growing up in Texas. Free. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

Holy Joe
Intense melodic rock'n'roll. Lead singer Billy Valentine. Drip Joy opens. 10pm. Faster Pussycat @ CW Saloon, 911 Polson.

Low Cool
SF Art Institute's 125th anniversary exhibition includes Meg Mack, Paul McCarthy, Ruby Neri, thru 3/17. Walter/McBean Gallery, 8FAI, 800 Chestnut. 449-4588.

Morphology
Group sculpture exhibition features new work by Michael Damm, Gordon Simpson, Teresa A. Smith, more. Wed-Sat. thru 3/16. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Sweat Girls
Chicago's all-female troupe of writer/performers perform. Part of the Working Women Theatre Festival. Wed-Sat. at 8:30pm. \$10-12. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Purrie Victorious
Pessie Davis' comedy about race relations in the old South. Wed-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$8-12. Multi Ethnic Theatre, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 E. Haro. 550-8161.

Round Up
New gay and lesbian country. New evening night. 7pm. V/sf, 78 11th St. 621-1530.

Clavsi
Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness," by Tony Kushner. Tues-Sun, thru 3/19, call for times. \$21.50-34. Tonight at 8pm. Berkeley Rep Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

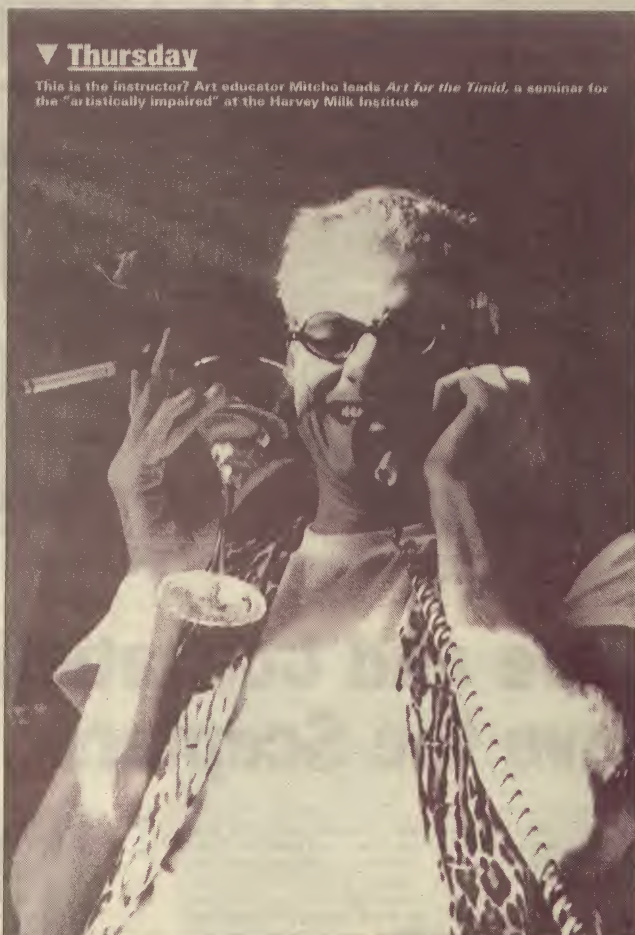
Willight: Los Angeles, 1992
Anna Devere Smith portrays nearly 40 real-life individuals with perspectives on the '92 uprising. Thru 3/17, call for times. \$21.50-34. Tonight at 8pm. Marines Mem'l Theatre, 609 Sutter. (510) 845-4700.

Andrew Lloyd Webber:
Music of the Night," theatrical concert starring Kevin Kline. Tues-Sat. thru 4/7, call for times. \$30-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre. 776-1999.

Thursday 14
Art for the Timid
Introductory seminar to help artistically impaired," art educator Mitcho. \$25. 8:30pm. Info: Harvey Milk Institute. 552-7200.

Bingo
Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. 12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Community Center
Public forum by the Community Center Project.



Thursday

This is the instructor? Art educator Mitcho leads *Art for the Timid*, a seminar for the "artistically impaired" at the Harvey Milk Institute

7pm. SF City Coll., 33 Gough. 241-1526.

Faulkner's Bicycle

Heather McDonald's play: family ties in Mississippi, headliner of 2nd Annual Working Women festival. \$10-12. Wed-Sat. at 9pm thru 3/31. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

The Five Year Salon

Evening of fortune-telling, apocalyptic predictions, more: Linda Montano, Danielle Abrams, Tornado Terhune, others. \$1-3. 8pm. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Heartbreak

In Jack Heifner's play, a writer exploits his best friends and earnest lover. Wed-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30.

\$12-16. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

How Is a Church Like the Sea

Dance company Nesting Dolls explores interior and exterior landscapes. Thurs-Sun. at 8pm. \$12.50-14.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Maestro!

Exhibition of thirty prints of internationally famous conductors by SF photographer Tom Zimmeroff. Tues-Sat. thru 3/23. Free. San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Nelson

Recent paintings: nude portraiture. Thurs-Sat. thru

3/30. Timothy Higbee Gallery, 30 Rose. 621-4923.

Slippery Water

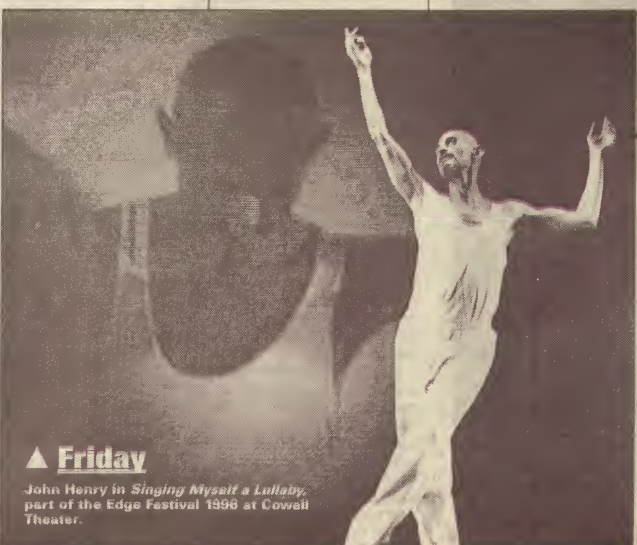
Mixed media sculpture by Alan Firestone. Wed-Sat. thru 3/16. Four Walls, 3160-A 16th St. 626-8515.

The Taming of the Shrew

The African-American Shakespeare Co. presents a contemporary version of Shakespeare's comedy. Thru 3/17, call for times. \$12. Next Stage Theater, 1668 Bush. 333-1918 x 2.

Véhicules a Paris

Paintings by Helen Berggruen, reception tonight, 6pm. Mon-Sat. thru 3/27. Alliance Française de San Francisco, 1345 Bush. 775-7755.



Friday

John Henry in *Singing Myself a Lullaby*, part of the Edge Festival 1996 at Cowell Theater.

Extra-Value Dinner Specials



Chicken Fried Steak with mashed potatoes & gravy, fresh vegetable & soup or Sonoma greens salad.....7.95

Grilled Pork Chops with apple-ginger dressing, Thai peanut sauce, mashed potatoes & soup or salad....9.75

N.Y. Pepper Steak with brandy sauce, french fries & onion rings, fresh vegetable and soup or salad.....10.95

Penne Pasta with Chicken & Rock Shrimp, creamy tomato-basil pesto, with soup or salad.....9.75

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Janet Hazen, *SF Bay Guardian*

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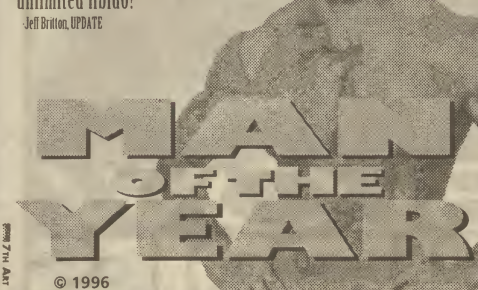
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Dinner 5:30pm - 9:00pm

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unlimited libido!"
Jeff Biron, *UPDATE*



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BAZAAR**

MR. MARCUS



Emperor XXXII Steve Vallone and Empress XXXI Cockatielia were crowned the ruling royalty of San Francisco last Saturday night, March 2.

Steve and Cockatielia Wave the Scepters

It took approximately 5-1/2 hours last Saturday, March 2, at the Gift Center to find out who would be the next imperial rulers of San Francisco. The extravaganza started promptly at 1800. A crowd estimated at nearly 1,000 from all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico converged to pay homage to Empress Donna Sachet and Emperor Brian Benamati and to welcome the new monarchs.

If you've never been to an imperial coronation, you probably wouldn't like seeing a string of out-of-town courts parade on the ramp with those who are, those who were, those who wannabe and those who shouldn't have been. But that's the nature of royal coronations, i.e., everything from the bootlicker to His Imperial Majesty Doo-Da from Bumfuck, Texas, to the reigning blue bloods of Dubuque.

The big attendance this year was undeniably due to the great job Brian and Donna did during their reign and the popularity they enjoyed, not only at home, but everywhere they traveled. Visually, it was "my crown's bigger than yours," and so many rhinestones, feathers, bugle beads, fabulous gowns and emperors laden with zircons that it was almost blinding.

As far as I'm concerned, the butchiest visiting emperor was Emperor Tim of Seattle, with his fabulous Empress Coco. The rulers of a well-structured and regimented court only two weeks old, they performed the best ensemble presentation at the Out of Town show on Friday and repeated it on Saturday night to tumultuous applause.

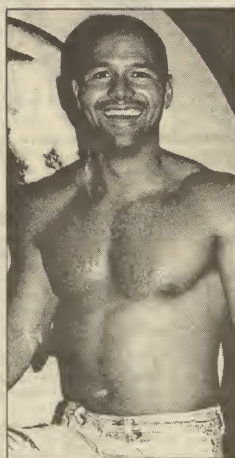
Empress candidate Cockatielia, a vision in silver, stopped the show when she was presented, and emperor candidate Steve Vallone managed to put on a coherent '50s hot-rod/hot-girls number. The other candidates' presentations were so vague, they left everyone wondering, wondering...

This was the 30th anniversary of the court system as we know it today. Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton, accepted the applause due his/her status as the first empress ever. Later on in the evening, a title was bestowed upon California Senator Milton Marks, who was escorted by his loving wife, Caroline.

The emcees did a great job throughout the evening. The recognizing of the 20th anniversary of the reign of Empress XII Flame certainly invoked a twinge of nostalgia. Wally Rutherford and Vern Becker did the intro, and a barrage of bugle beads descended on the stage worn by some of the classiest drag beauties on the scene during Flame's reign.

Oh, it was grand all right. But around 11:10 p.m., after all the funds were distributed (\$10,000 to the SF AIDS Foundation alone!) and the permanent titles were bestowed, the moment of truth arrived. There was the traditional hush before the new monarchs were revealed.

The accounting firm delivered the envelopes to the stage, where



Juan Carlos was chosen Mr. May on the 1997 Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, Feb. 29, at the Eagle. They will pick Mr. June March 14.

Imperial Council chairs Remy and Chuck received and opened them, then handed them to the Emperor I and Empress I, who held the waiting crowns.

Brian and Donna took the glass elevator to the fourth floor where the aspirants were assembled. In a few scant seconds, the new royals emerged on the first floor and strode to the dais. At this point, the crowd erupted. Steve Vallone and Cockatielia kneeled and responded to the oath of office delivered by Remy. Their robes were draped on them, and scepters placed in their hands. Well-wishers, regardless of whom they supported during the campaign, thronged the stage. It was a time for healing and uniting again to do the hard work ahead. Also to have fun, raise money, and let bygones be bygones.

The next morning, Sunday, a contingent of loyalists trooped to a cemetery in Colma for the annual visit to Joshua Norton's grave—a campy interlude with much laughter—then off to a glorious



Swathed in silver, empress candidate Cockatielia brought down the house with her production number when she was presented to the audience at the coronation last Saturday.

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Eventures in Leather

Thursday, March 7

George Carreras is having a party, well, a beer bust to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, and you're all invited. It begins at 2000 at Daddy's for \$6 and ends at 2300. There'll be raffles with "great prizes," the grand one being a dinner for two at Lupann's. Oh yes, George wants you to know he's not doing this all alone; his "crew" is helping, but we won't go into that will we?

Weekend, March 8-10

Leatherfest VIII all weekend in San Diego - it promises to be another blockbuster. The action will take place at the Regency Plaza, and at this late date, the entire weekend package could cost you anywhere from \$115 to \$175. One-day passes are \$30. Call 800-598-1859 for details.

In Melbourne, Australia, the Melbourne Leathermen MC is celebrating its fifth anniversary, so if you're in the vicinity, drop into the Laird Hotel and

tell them I sent you!

Sunday, March 10

The Cycle Runners MC hosts the beer bust at the Eagle this afternoon for \$8, with food and shenanigans by the one and only Frank Naccaratto. Don't miss it.

Wednesday, March 13

Don the yellow hankies and race to Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, code of conduct and admission prices. Make sure your hose is in proper working order, but don't ruin your white sneakers, oopsl!

Thursday, March 14

Choosing Mr. June 1997 on the Bare Chest Calendar at the Eagle, 2200 sharp. New faces, new judges - and remember - the Knights of Malta beer bust is not every Thursday, just once a month!

Night of comedy and cabaret at Eichelberger's, a benefit for St. Anthony's Foun-

dation, begins at 2100 with a ton of comedians and entertainers for a \$5 donation. Brought to you by Lance Brittain and Cornelius Conboy. Another "together, miracles will happen" event.

Friday, March 15

Golden Gate Guards MC \$6 beer bust, 2000-2300, at the SF Eagle. Always a fun group, the GGG.

Beer bust for the Golden State Gay Rodeo Assn. at the Edge bar, but no details furnished.

Wednesday, March 20

Daddy's Mr. Leather contest at the selfsame Daddy's tonight, with a \$300 cash prize and a title vest. Full details next week.

Thursday, March 21

Mr. SF Eagle Leather contest with one more \$300 cash prize and a title vest. IML is just around the corner! ▼

brunch at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. First-timers were amazed at the goings-on. Congratulations to Steve and Cockatielia. And Brian and Donna, you did us proud!

Meanwhile, getting back to other denizens of the realm, the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar contests roll on. At the last one on Thursday, Feb. 29, Mr. May 1997 was chosen. A contingent of nine, count 'em, nine, dudes trod the boards at the Eagle. Daddy Steve Gaynes, Calendar Whip Lee Tucker and a cute interested customer put the comely aspirants through their paces with outrageous and candid questions. Shortly before midnight, the judges (who always witness the count) emerged from the office, and it was announced that Juan Carlos, a studly Venezuelan dude, had taken the May 1997 spot on the calendar. The runner-up was "Taurus" Webster.

Also, the new "Daddy/Boy Dating Game" fun nights began last Tuesday at Daddy's. Danny Williams had the crowd in stitches with Bare Chest Calendar Man Joey and Leather Daddy Cornelius blindfolded and asking questions of men they couldn't see. They had to pick one for a dinner date. It was quite hilarious and will be an ongoing event at the Disastro's newest pub. Stay tuned for the next one!

And while we're on Daddy's, please stop the nit-picking. On Wednesday, March 20, Daddy's will be selecting their contestant to compete in the Mr. SF Leather contest. It's either Mr. Daddy's



Empress Jose, the Widow Norton, gave the shortest speech of her career (five minutes) on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of her title. She also hinted that Nicole the Great of San Diego will be her successor at the appropriate time.

Leather '96 or Daddy's Mr. Leather '96, so stop it already. Whoever wins it gets \$300 in cash and a title vest. Are you man enough to compete?

The basketball jocks cavorted at the Eagle's beer bust last Sunday, and regrettably, the rains came and the big hands/big feet contest was stopped short by emcee Danny Williams, who wisely refused to hold a mike in his hand with rain pouring down. "I'm out of here!" exclaimed La Williams after he did the honors for the basketball shots. The food was great, and the tourists were

absolutely mesmerized - again.

Ticket alert

Almost one-third of the 470 seats at the Alcazar Theatre for the Mr. Leather of San Francisco contest on April 20 are sold already, so if you're planning to attend, get your tickets early. Hint, hint, hint: go directly to Mercury Mail Order or either of the two Mister S outlets to get them. Since the Alcazar is a new venue, you might want to see exactly where your seats will be. You'll be more satisfied than ordering by phone with your credit card! ▼



Empress Coco, Olympia XXVI of Seattle, dazzled the coronation audience with her production number, which took first prize at the Out of Town Show the night before.

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INTERVIEW

Eric Orner's Singular Ethan Green The Mostly Sweet Creator of a Fabulous Comic

by Bob Roehr

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green is "the only funny gay comic," a friend declared recently over dinner. Some may quibble and defend their own favorite strip, but let's face it, nobody dislikes Ethan Green.

Eric Orner is Ethan's creator. He has been drawing all his life, "telling cartoon stories" since he was five years old. He sold his first strip to the *Chicago Daily News* at age 13 and helped finance his college education by selling drawings and illustrations to papers like the *Boston Globe* and the *Washington Post*.

Ethan was born six years ago at a lecture given at Cambridge by Armistead Maupin, who serialized his San Francisco saga *Tales of the City* in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Following Maupin's lead, Orner mused: "Why didn't I think of this before? I can tell a story about what being gay is like in the newspaper, as a cartoonist, not a writer."

Orner's voice flows sweetly, embodying the "golly gee whiz" spirit of Jimmy Stewart, only with a slightly crisp, catty edge. Underlying his character, though, is the same Midwestern wholesomeness we've come to associate with that sweet American movie icon.

Ethan "is a little bit surly, a little bit funny," Orner said of his character in a recent interview. "Kind of bratty, kind of whiny. But he's also got clarity. He sees things that some of his friends don't bother to look at. That persona kind of fell out whole."

The strip is definitely not autobiographical. For one thing, Orner celebrates seven years of happy marriage, a quest that dominates much of Ethan's existence. Does this mean that Ethan is fated to be single and frustrated?

"Ethan is not Charlie Brown, who is never going to kick that football," comes the reply. "I like people to open up the paper each week, if they are interested in Ethan, and have the same notion that he does, that he is looking for it, and it is out there, and maybe this week he will find it. It just hasn't happened yet."

Orner does admit, however, to occasionally living vicariously through his characters. "I become a bit of a wise ass, a comedian," he confesses. "I get that out of my system on paper so I'm not particularly wisecracking in person."

The easiest strips to write are "the crowd pleasers, the ones that end up on refrigerators." Often they have to do with sex, those drag queen blimps The Hat Sisters, or comparing and contrasting gay lifestyles in different cities.



Cartoonist Eric Orner wants to help shape and define gay culture.

Proud of his contribution

Writing about HIV was very difficult for Orner. "I was very concerned that I didn't have anything to say about it. I got over that hump by realizing that I didn't really have anything to say about anything, which doesn't prevent me from saying something each week."

Orner says he's not spooked by the fact that sometimes his column is "just observations" and that it's not always about "being funny." He says watching Jerry Seinfeld helped, though, as that show "sometimes isn't about anything either."

Orner carries around a notebook and jots down story lines as they come to him. He writes the dialogue and lets that "process, germinate" while he ponders the physical look. "And then," he says, "there is always this moment when you decide to marry the story sitting in the notebook with the panel sitting on the table."

His lettering, he readily admits, is often "loopy." "I like letting it have an organic feel, a reminder that we are just goofing around here." Most of the "goofing" isn't by design, however, it's just his way of avoiding the tedium of lettering. "For some reason I just feel like doing something dumb, like making an 'e' backwards, or the

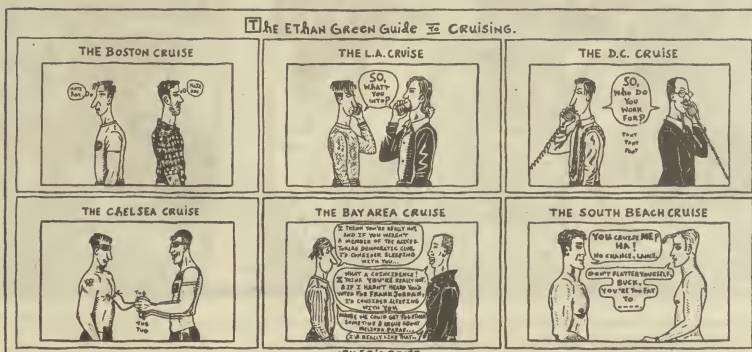
's' a little bit of a curve. I can't help myself, it ends up being kind of loopy."

Orner has a day job to keep a roof over his head, but he won't say what it is, for that would be "disruptive to the line of communication I have opened to [readers] as Ethan. And I don't want to do that. The person doing this is a cartoonist, and that is who this person is."

Orner has "almost a brick wall" about allowing the work of other cartoonists "to filter in." But he reads voraciously and isn't afraid to steal from fiction authors. "Maybe it's because I know I won't get caught," he suggests with a laugh.

It isn't the money that keeps him drawing, but a love of telling stories and his excitement about being "in on the ground floor," helping to shape and define a young gay culture. "I get a lot of nice letters," he says warmly. "It definitely makes it worthwhile." ▼

Ethan Green lives in 60 gay papers across the country and in two books by St. Martin's Press. Eric Orner welcomes your e-mail comments at thngnrcmx@aol.com. He explains: "It's Ethan Green Comics without the vowels and an 'x' at the end."



Brad Braverman: 1961-1996

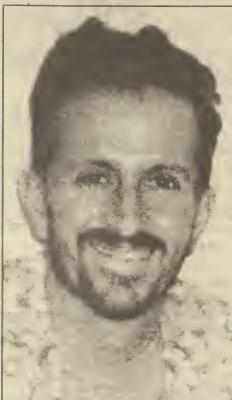
by John Karr

Bradley J. Braverman — born in Oakland on February 17, 1961, raised in Denver, and known by fans of his erotic videos as Bad Brad — died in LA on January 10 from complications from AIDS. He was 34. Despite his youth, Brad was a frequently exhibited and awarded artist. As a photographer, filmmaker/pornographer and producer, he was just attaining broader renown.

Fame brings problems, though, like when a mainstream LA newspaper ran an article about one of his exhibits at a better known gallery, thus alerting authorities. The night before the show was to open, the police raided Brad's studio. Among the videos they confiscated was one featuring a water sports scene. As a result, Brad was charged with obscenity, which effectively put his career on hold. In distressingly frail health, Brad went on trial and fought the charges with the same focused intensity and purity of heart that characterized his artistic work. The trial was disrupted by his worsening health and ultimate death; the outcome of the trial is to be decided at the end of this month.



The softer side of Bad Brad: a photo from the early '90s.



Brad Braverman

I had become Brad's fan after seeing his erotic videos, the trance-like *Fetish* in particular. Brad's use of video as an artistic and creative medium was unusual in the porn industry to the point of being unique. Yet *Fetish* is just about the most erotic video I've ever seen. So I was eager to meet him when he came to San Francisco last winter to speak about his recent photographs at Mark Chester's gallery. The show,

provocatively titled "The Cost of Desire," embraced provocative works by Jim James and Rick De-Castro, as well as Brad's photographs of gay suicides.

Brad was charming and kind person. He was eager to help us understand and appreciate his strange photos of gay men killing themselves. He began the series when he learned he was HIV positive, as a means of exploring his feelings — to release anxiety and dispel his own suicidal impulses. "They're for exploration of things we can't face," he said. "They're about emotions, and were created to evoke emotions in people."

"The subject is difficult," Brad admitted, "and that's why I'm being poetic about it. I romanticize death, stylize it. The attractive models and sensuous designs are meant to dispel fear — so they're an act of seduction."

Brad's videos were a more easily accessible seduction, but filled with provocative imagery nonetheless. Although directed by several people, they are suffused with Brad's imprint as producer and editor. The disjointed editing, hallucinatory lighting and well-chosen performers mark them as classics in a generally abused medium. Besides *Fetish*, Brad's

videos include *disconnected*, *Raw*, and *Hush*.

Although we say good-bye to brave Bad Brad, he says hello in the rich legacy of his creative work. ▼

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Combat!

Continued from page 44

school sweethearts Susan Miller (Kegan Stedwell) and John Herrick (Christian Milne), who enjoy one last tryst before they graduate into the real world. Both end up serving in the military, however, where they discover not only their homosexuality, but their ability to love each other despite sexual preference.

As in all of Fisher's plays, the journey is never easy, but along the way we meet fascinating characters in situations that reflect the richness of real life. Utilizing the great resources of a university setting, Fisher has assembled a crack cast of 24 that includes himself as the rough and ready drill sergeant.

Knock out performances are offered by Fisher regulars Darryl Stephens as the black soldier, Elisa Wolthausen as a tough lesbian of-

ficer, Corey Schaffer as a psychiatrist, and Jeffrey Fierson as, among other roles, a larger-than-life drag queen. Matthew Schmidt, Drew Burns and Alan LaPolice round out the military squad.

Newcomer Jeremy Proctor plays Mark Thomas, Herrick's lover, who though he's as gay as a hoot, is a died-in-the-wool macho. Proctor's acting is full of wonderful subtle touches, and the power of his character as soldier, teacher, lover and hero is amazing to witness.

This is a sprawling, epic work, but for all its length (three plus hours), thoroughly remarkable and engaging. ▼

John Fisher's *Combat!* continues at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Playhouse through March 10. For tickets and information, call 1-510-642-9988.

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Music

Continued from page 45

title could not be more fitting.

The second movement: *Pandora Dance* is a sinuous, sinister episode that makes a rather perfect scherzo and provides Ms. Giacobassi with an excellent vehicle for her remarkable expressivity.

Hymns and Tablets is a properly final statement for a concerto to that really lives up to expectations. Again, the title says it all and, needless to say, Giacobassi is superb. The closing pages speak of redemption, and the lovely, arching melody proves that there are contemporary composers who can write a tune.

The central movement sounds Bernsteinesque, but the composer's voice is quite singular. This is a recording music lovers will want to listen to again and again.

Grieg/Chopin

Piano Concerto; Piano Concerto No. 1, Ollie Mustonen; Herbert Blomstedt, San Francisco Symphony; London



It was an education, sitting in on the recording sessions for this disc. Blomstedt and the engineers were all business and pleasant efficiency. The pianist, Ollie Mustonen, was all artistic spirit — eager to refine and interpret wherever possible. The results seemed exciting at the time, yet hearing the recording at a distance, there is a noticeable lack of spontaneity and flair.

Mustonen can't be faulted for anything less than pristine perfection, but Blomstedt's careful sculpting of the accompaniment is a little bland when compared to the best performances of these

off-recorded scores. The Chopin fares best under this overrefined, aristocratic treatment. Pity the Grieg couldn't have been given a little more edge.

Good performances. The sound is excellent, though a little dense in tutti passages. If you don't have these old war-horses in your collection, this will do, but don't trade in your oldies just to have the latest.

Sergei Prokofiev

Romeo and Juliet, Suite from the ballet, Michael Tilson Thomas, San Francisco Symphony; RCA Victor, Red Seal

MTT's first disc with the SF Symphony is already selling like hotcakes at Tower. The buyer at the Stonestown outlet expects to re-stock soon. For once, all the hype and anticipation is justified — the recording is, quite simply, triumphant. A rave is in order for everything from the performances to the packaging.

Tilson Thomas culls from Prokofiev's glorious score an ex-

tended suite that plays like a very satisfying evening at the ballet.

The conductor's innate sense of theater suffuses every excerpt with deeply felt emotion, wit and drama. The players give it their all and the sonics are unbelievably good. The label that touts "The Legends of our Time" for once seems apt. This disc belongs in everybody's permanent collection. ▼



Books for People Homebound With AIDS/HIV

The San Francisco public Library is seeking volunteers to carry books to the homebound in the "Friends of Life" program.

"In the past year, Friends of Life volunteers served nearly 100 clients who would otherwise not have had access to our wonderful library collections," Program Coordinator Karen Strauss says.

Free training will be Thursday, March 14 in the city's Civic Center. Volunteers are asked to donate three to six hours a week.

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YOUR SOMA FRIENDS

E10

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Thank You * 387-8244

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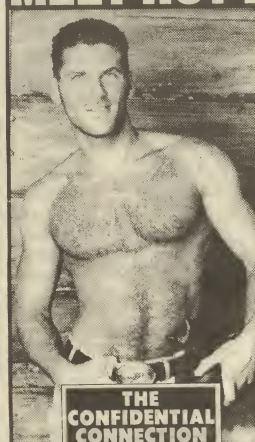
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3 DAYS FOR ONLY \$5
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 50 IN
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 27, 6', 180#
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 \$50/90min
 Gift Certificates
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WARM HEART
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 artfully
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 12 yrs. experience. Castro bar/In or outcall certificates

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MASSAGE
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TRAINING
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 \$49/hr

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 VOTED BEST OF DENVER
 My massage is truly the
 best. Strong hands. CMT.
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Tantalizing
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 Given by 28 y.o. Runner
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 Hairy, Cajun/Italian ex-football
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 Big man, 6'3", 250#, 8" uncult.
 Powerful fullbody massage. Near
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 Castro
 \$50/in

Out to
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 Want someone
 professional and
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 I give a full
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 in the nude.
 I am a Norwe-
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 swimmer,
 handsome
 & clean-cut.
 Certified.
 \$45 in. 24 hrs.
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HOT
 Nude, Erotic & Swedish Messages
 No Nonsense Affair
 A Professional Man
 For Your Body and Head
 By A Handsome Man
 6'1", 210 lbs., Blond/Blu
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 24 HRS.
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 Providing outstanding massage
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THINGS
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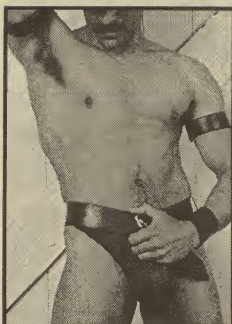
surf with this!
 boy: beach
 attitude: fresh
 massage: erotic
 swedish
 deep tissue
 chinese (tui na)
 Ian: 270-2548

MASSAGE

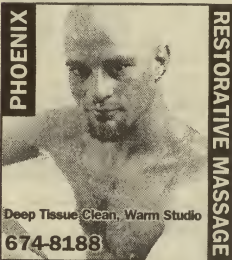
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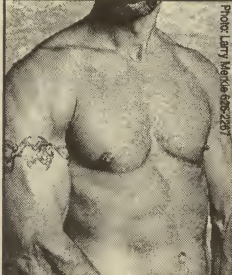
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29, Hot, Friendly & Fun

Solid, Lean Gym Body

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Smooth, Sexy Skin

Marco * Pgr: 719-0306

Bear Kicks Back * 765-7625

18 Y.O. Punk Kid

FANTASY BOY

Tell me your fantasy. I'll make it
real! Great imagination. Hot
body. Fun. Safe & Wild
Page: 764-7296

MODELS/ESCORTS

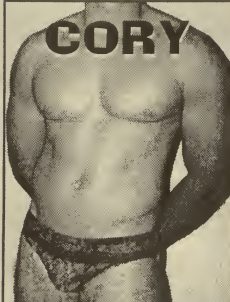
FRAT MAN

Masculine, Horse-Hung Jock
Athletic Build • Friendly
Dominant • Verbal • Long Lasting

Greg 415-861-7399 \$90

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Call Rick at: **(415) 543-1781**
for more info.

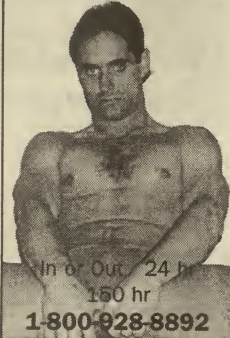


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Outcalls and Travel OK
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and hard meaty piece
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Page: Jack (415) 764-5805

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Hot Mouth, Deep Throat
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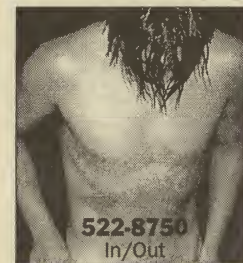
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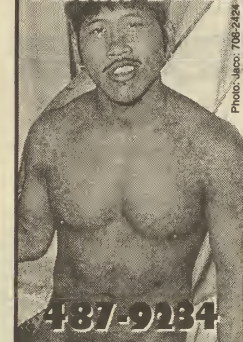


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NEEDS SERIOUS HEAD
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Safe manly escort to your
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SMOOTH BLOND BOY

Very Hot Ass

21 Y/O, 150#, 5'8", 8" Cut

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Hot Young Latin Top
Smooth, lean, well-defined body.
Well-hung and ready to please
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Blonde, Tall, Slim, Kind, and

Sensual. Relax with a warm

20 yr old. Thomas * 474-6786

Southern Beau Sweet & Sexy

25 y/o 5'9" 140 Lbs of hot fun

Safe scenes, Cuddly & Kinky

RALEIGH * 313-2109

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41 Y/O BUDDY

Long Hair, Trim Beard,

Hot Voice, Short Tool

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S/M, B&D, FF, WS, ranch.
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muscular hairy
masculine good looks **TOM**

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Will Degrade You into XTC!
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of Butt! 24 Hrs, 27 * 328-5304

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Handsome, Boyish Look
Energetic and Easy to
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Very Built 24 yr old
Very Masculine
Seth * 749-9670

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Handsome Hung Versatile
Tall, Hairy, Blonde/Blue
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College Boy 26 Yrs 5'9" 175 Lbs
Perfect Body Big & Uncut
Thick Legs, B.B. Butt Sexy Hot
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Mitch Taylor
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9X6 24-HOURS
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Distinguished Age 40
Handsome Hung 8" & Thick
\$60 * DAVE * 922-3924

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817

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Kicks Back for Service 24 Hrs
10"X6" UNCUT
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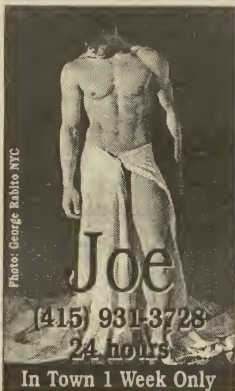
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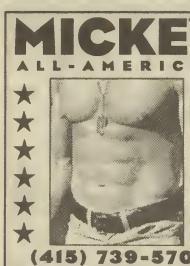
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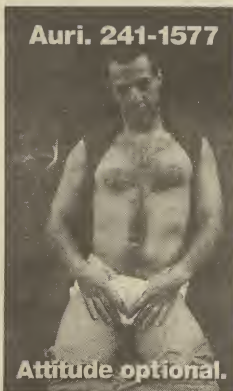
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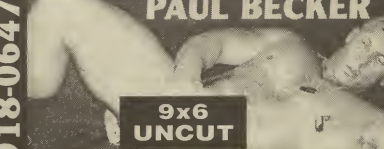
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